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Charles A Childs  
To his  
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April 5/86











*Alvan Hyde, D. D.*  
*Pastor of the Church in Lee*  
*Mass.*



LEE.

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THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

AND

Centennial History

OF THE

TOWN OF LEE, MASS.

1777 - 1877

COMPILED BY

REV. C. M. HYDE, D.D.,

AND

ALEXANDER HYDE.

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PUBLISHED BY VOTE OF THE TOWN.

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PART I.

The Centennial Celebration.



## THE LEE CENTENNIAL.

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THE idea of celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the incorporation of Lee, so far as is known, originated with the late Rev. Nahum Gale, D. D., pastor of the Congregational church, who said, with his characteristic humor, to the editor of *The Gleaner*, "In 1877 occurs the Centennial of Lee, and you must *blow* for it." The editor obeyed the injunction of his pastor, and the subject was duly ventilated in the village paper. As this is an era of Centennials, it was not difficult to create a public sentiment in favor of this local celebration, though, we are sorry to add, the author of the idea did not live to participate in the social Reunion of the town of Lee, which he had anticipated with so much pleasure, and of which, had his life been spared, he would have been the soul. It is due to Doctor Gale to say, that the enterprise was carried through substantially in the manner in which he blocked it out, when he first made the suggestion.

At the annual town meeting held in Lee, April 3, 1876, the following vote was passed on the article in the warrant: "To see what action the town will take with reference to the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town." "Voted, that the town celebrate its Centennial in an appropriate manner, and that a Committee of Thirteen be appointed to make all necessary arrangements to carry this vote into effect." In accordance with this vote, a Committee of Three was



named by the chair, to select the Centennial Committee. This Nominating Committee reported the following names :

HARRISON GARFIELD,	CHARLES BRADLEY,	EDWIN STURGES,
E. S. MAY,	NATHAN GIBBS,	H. C. HURLBUT,
HENRY SMITH,	JOHN BRANNING,	S. S. MAY,
ELIZUR SMITH,	ALEXANDER HYDE,	A. G. HULBERT,
	WILLIAM TAYLOR.	

This report was duly accepted and adopted.

The Centennial Committee was subsequently organized by the selection of Harrison Garfield as Chairman, Nathan Gibbs, Secretary, and J. L. Kilbon, Treasurer. As the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town occurred late in the season, (October 18,) it was voted that the celebration take place Thursday, September 13, and a Sub-committee, consisting of Harrison Garfield, Alexander Hyde and William Taylor, was appointed to select a suitable person to deliver the historical address on the occasion, and prepare a history of the town for publication. This committee made choice of Rev. Charles M. Hyde, D. D., of Haverhill, Mass., as the orator and historian, who accepted the appointment, and soon commenced his investigations of the history of the town. Doctor Hyde had covered, more or less perfectly, over three hundred pages of historical notes, when he was appointed, early in 1877, by the A. B. C. F. M., President of the Pacific Theological Institute at Honolulu. The acceptance of this appointment necessitated his leaving the country, and the committee selected Hon. Franklin Chamberlin, of Hartford, Conn., as Centennial orator, and Alexander Hyde of Lee, to complete the history of the town, and superintend its publication. Both these gentlemen accepted and fulfilled their appointments.

At the annual town meeting held April 2, 1877, there



was an article in the warrant, asking an appropriation for the expenses of celebrating the Centennial of the town, and the action on the article was as follows: Voted, "To raise and appropriate eight hundred dollars for printing and publishing the history of the town, and the expenses connected therewith." As the law did not authorize the assessment of a tax for the necessary incidental expenses of the Centennial Celebration, the committee decided to defray these personally, the chairman offering to advance the funds. We are happy to add that all bills were promptly paid by Mr. Garfield, and that the subscription for his reimbursement, on the part of the committee and others, was cheerful and generous.

A circular was issued by the committee, March 1, 1877, giving notice of the celebration, and inviting all former residents of the town and their descendants to be present. A thousand copies of this circular were struck off, and they were scattered widely but hurriedly, not as systematically as they should have been, as the committee relied upon the community to send them to relations and former neighbors. By this mode of dissemination some old residents received several invitations, and others none. All however were invited to the Reunion, by a standing advertisement in the columns of the *Lee Gleaner*, and if any were neglected it was through inadvertence.

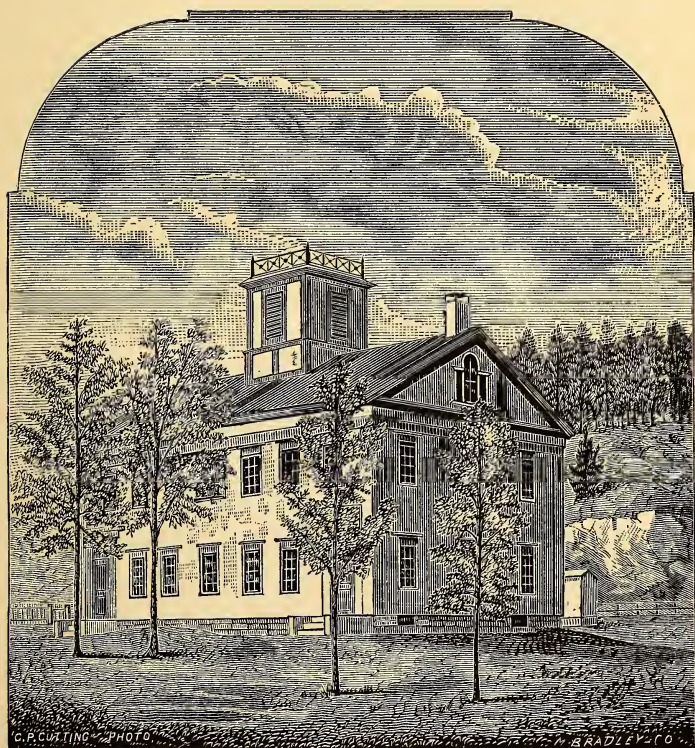
Sub-committees on music, hospitality, etc., were duly appointed, and all worked with a will, the community co-operating cheerfully and liberally to make the occasion a success. The Lee Cornet Band and the Congregational choir, volunteered their services, and labored indefatigably to make the music worthy of the Centennial Celebration, in which they succeeded to such a degree that compliments flowed from all mouths, and to the Band a complimentary donation of fifty dollars was

presented by three of the committee, Messrs. E. Smith, H. Garfield and W. Taylor.

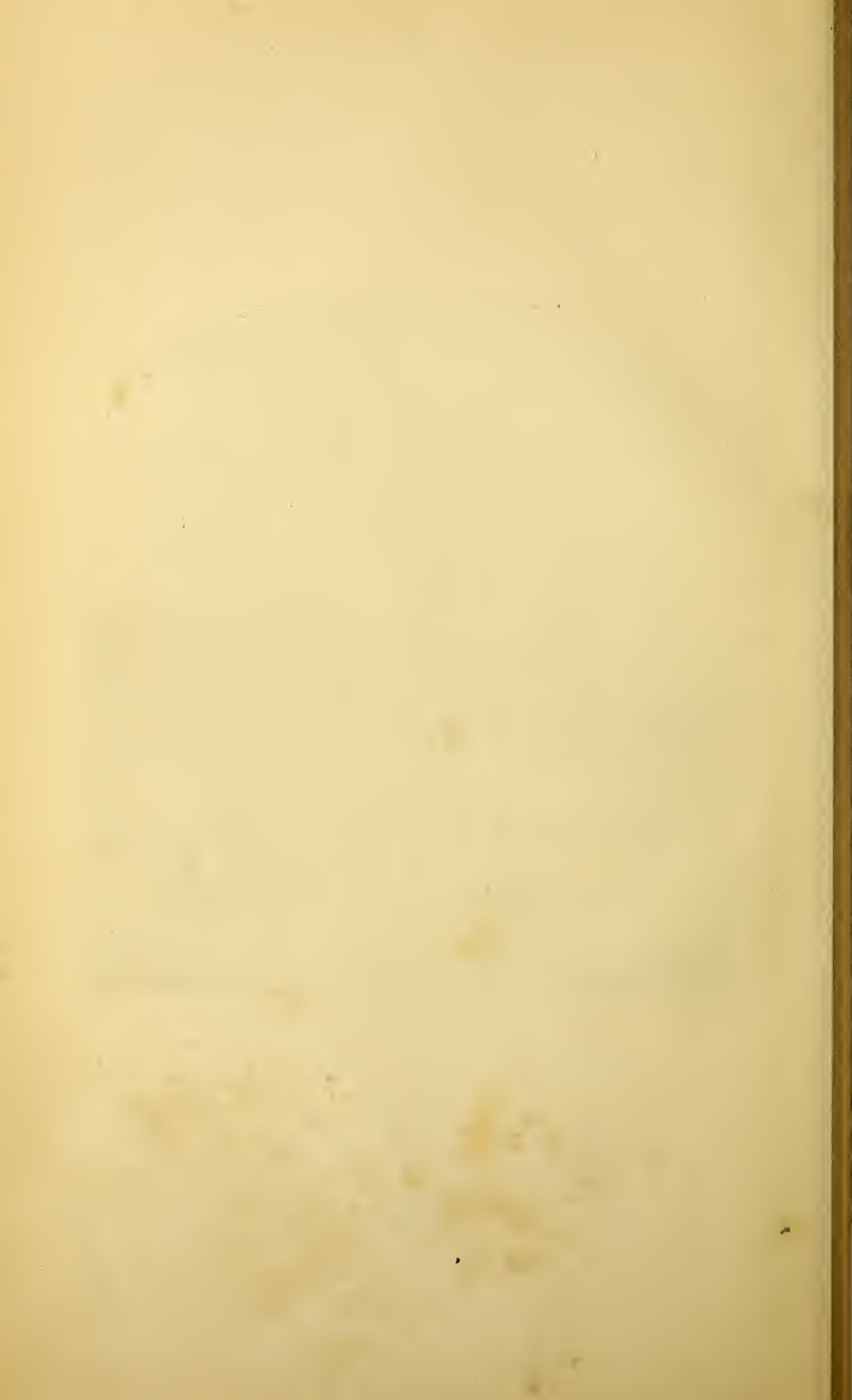
The caterers for the occasion, Messrs. Hall and Whipple, of Young's Hotel, Boston, deserve honorable mention. Their bill of fare was unexceptionable, and the tent, table, and all the appointments were fully up to contract. Every thing was done neatly and in order, and if every one did not have his fill of fat things, the blame could not be laid to the caterers, who were guaranteed pay for only four hundred plates; but they calculated for six hundred guests, and actually provided for nearly seven hundred. The committee did not venture to guarantee a larger number, as the public were slow in securing dinner tickets. The young gentlemen and ladies of the town volunteered as waiters at the tables, and, dressed uniformly with white aprons and simple but tasteful caps, they did themselves and the town great credit: "The post of service is the post of honor," was a favorite maxim of their late pastor, Dr. Gale, which they well illustrated.

#### THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION.

Prefacing the Centennial proper, and so intimately connected with it, that the history of the one is incomplete without some short account of the other, was the Reunion of the former teachers and pupils of the Lee High School, and its predecessor, the Lee Academy. This occurred Wednesday, September 12, and the trysting place very properly selected for it, was Fern Cliff, a rocky, well-wooded eminence, at the base of which stands the High School building. The view from the plateau on the summit of this cliff, is one of the finest of the many fine views in Lee and vicinity, and a comfortable carriage road, thanks to the present proprietor, Thomas Heaphy, makes access to it very easy.



HIGH SCHOOL.





The idea of this Reunion in connection with the Centennial was first suggested by one of the many distinguished alumni of the school, Prof. E. H. Barlow, of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, in a letter published in *The Gleaner*. The suggestion was received with approbation by all the graduates and by the community generally. A meeting of the ex-members and friends of the High School was called, at which C. B. Bullard, S. V. Halsey, Mrs. A. C. Sparks and Miss M. R. Hyde, were appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the Reunion. Mr. Bullard was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Halsey, Secretary of this Committee, and Sub-committees were selected from other resident graduates. A circular was sent to every former member of the Academy and High School whose address could be ascertained, and the responses were so prompt and numerous as to encourage energetic preparations. Prof. E. H. Barlow was very naturally selected as the orator of the day, and Mrs. M. M. Frissell of Kingston, N. Y., and Dr. W. Hall of Brookfield, Mass., were asked to prepare poems for the occasion.

The cordial co-operation of citizens generally in this Reunion, showed the high estimation in which our principal literary institution is held, and a just appreciation of the great service it has done this community. Too much cannot be said in its praise, for it has enabled parents to educate their children at home, who could not afford to send them abroad, and the hundreds of its graduates who are scattered all over the land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and who are most uniformly making their mark in the world, testify to the capacity, fidelity, and high moral tone of the instructors. As the history of this Academy and High School, is the history of one of our most important institutions, and is so well told in Professor Barlow's address, that no apology is necessary for

incorporating his complete address in this Centennial Book.

Abner Rice, the accomplished Principal of the High School since 1862, was the fitting person to preside over the reunion, and the able manner in which this duty was performed, gave satisfaction to all. The platform, on which were seated the president of the day, the orator, the former teachers of the School, the clergy and others, was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and a large audience of old and present pupils and citizens, testified to the high estimation in which this institution is held. The music was furnished by a select choir, composed of former pupils at the head of whom was John Delaney, and the manner in which the music was rendered, showed skill and thorough training. It may as well be said right here, that singing has ever been a prominent exercise in the Lee High School, and under the present Principal a piano has been provided for the school, and increased attention has been paid to the culture of music.

Promptly at 11 o'clock, Mr. Rice called the assembly to order, when prayer was offered by President Andrews of Marietta College, the first teacher of the Lee Academy.

#### MR. RICE'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Teachers and Alumni of the Lee Academy and High School :*

This is the day of our Jubilee; we meet as the members of one great family. We have a history reaching back over a period of forty years, and yet this, so far as I am informed, is our first family gathering. I have no doubt that many of us are surprised to find, to how large and to how respectably-looking a family we belong. After having been so long and widely separated, we may find ourselves to-day in the embarrassing predicament of the school-boy, who knew his letters by sight, but could not call them by name. Some of us may not even recognize the faces of our long-absent brothers and sisters.

The place that our Committee have selected for this meeting is the very one, I am sure, that you all would have chosen. What is there so intimately associated in your minds with your school-days in Lee as the "Old Ledge?" What other spot could awaken so many memories of the past? If we could give these rocks and trees a tongue, how would the story that they would tell of other days, thrill all our hearts!

Many of you are familiar with the circumstances in which this Reunion had its origin. For weeks and months, our Centennial Celebration has been one of the topics of special interest to the people of Lee. While the preparations for this was going forward, it was suggested that there could be no fitter time for a reunion of the former members of the Academy and High School. This suggestion met with a ready and hearty response. The sentiment expressed by some, was that the contemplated celebration could hardly be complete without it. Circulars were to be sent abroad inviting the absent sons and daughters of Lee to the home of their childhood, to review together the history of the town, and to renew and strengthen the friendships of other days; and on such an occasion, the friendships of school-days, among the firmest and pleasantest of our lives, should not be ignored.

Besides, the influence of this institution, during the forty years of its existence, in shaping the character of this community, has been of sufficient importance to receive some formal recognition. While our citizens may point with pride to what they have achieved in the department of manufactures and other industrial interests, they need not be ashamed of what they have accomplished through their Academy and High School, in giving to the world a nobler product—*men* and *women*—the only true mission of every institution of learning. It was believed that such a reunion would not end in a series of holiday festivities, but that it would serve the higher purpose of impressing this truth more deeply on our minds, of furnishing us with new incentives to labor, and of awakening in us higher aspirations. There is danger, too, that in this *material* age we forget how intimately the real prosperity of any people is connected with their educational advantages, and where may we expect that the claims of education will find advocates, if not among those who have shared these advantages?

But you are not here to listen to any words of mine; I have a single task to perform. It becomes my very pleasant duty to extend to all of you who have come back to your Berkshire home to share in these festivities, a cordial welcome.

To you, once instructors in this Institution, I may offer my congratulations also, at witnessing the spectacle before you. There can

be few occasions in the life of a teacher, as I believe, so replete with genuine satisfaction, as when he sees, in some tangible form, the result of his work. The seed that he sows is often of slow growth; there are few that understand better than he what it is to labor and to wait. It is your fortune to see to-day, as the fruit of work long since performed, the principles then inculcated, embodied in character. What richer trophy, what more enduring monument can you desire? Although some of you have been called to higher departments of educational work, it is with no feelings of indifference, I am sure, that you review the work which you accomplished *here*. Besides the satisfaction which arises from a consciousness of fidelity in the discharge of duty, you have the additional gratification of meeting many here, now engaged in the active duties of life, who have a truer appreciation of your efforts for them in years past than they *could* have *then*. On their behalf especially I may welcome you to this Reunion, and from the kind words of you, so often on their lips, I can assure you that your presence here is, at once, an inspiration and a benediction.

During the forty years of this school's history, there has been a constant tide of emigration among its graduates. Many of the young men have sought and found more promising fields of labor. They are now occupying places of responsibility and trust in the homes of their adoption. While they are winning life's prizes for themselves, they are, at the same time, reflecting honor on their native town and on the institution where they received, perhaps, the first impulse in their upward career. We rejoice to see so many of this class with us to-day. Gentlemen, we may well be proud of what you have achieved for yourselves and of what you have done for us. You are *welcome* here to-day.

Many of the young women, too, who have gone out from this School, have found greater attractions elsewhere, and so we have seen them, one after another, leave the old homestead, some of them for higher institutions of learning, some of them as teachers, more still to the responsible position that woman occupies in the household, all of them to the vacant places that are waiting for them to fill. For these we have a special greeting. Without their presence to grace this assembly, this would not deserve the name of a Jubilee. It is no figure of speech to say that without them, the charm and the poetry of this occasion would be wanting. I may be permitted here to add my testimony to the value of their refining and elevating influence in the school as well as in the family and in social life. It will not be considered invidious for me to say to these ladies present, "We have for you the most cordial welcome of all."



I hardly need to say to these resident graduates—to those of you whose lot it has been, following either your own inclinations or the call of duty, to remain at home, “to abide by the stuff”—that this occasion is very largely yours. I occupy the place that I do at your bidding; these words of welcome that have been spoken are *yours* as well as mine.

How closely you have become identified with the institution we represent to-day, how much of influence, of personal effort, and of material aid you have contributed to the advancement of all that pertains to the best interests of this community, you do not expect, indeed you would hardly allow me to rehearse in this presence. It is, however, but just that I should say, wherever plans are to be devised, or measures adopted for the promotion of the public weal, you always find a welcome.

Accept then—one and all—the greeting we bring you to-day, teachers, alumni, patrons and friends.

I have only to say, that I believe that this Reunion will not be simply an occasion to be enjoyed to-day, but one on which we shall look back with satisfaction and delight, and that we shall receive from it an inspiration that will make us better men and women.

#### PROFESSOR BARLOW'S ADDRESS.

“Historic truth,” says the imperial biographer of Cæsar, “ought to be no less sacred than religion.” To-day, historic truth is all about us. The air is not more redolent with the sweet and satisfying odors of ripening grain and luscious fruit, than it is fragrant with the memories of other days,—memories which come like a flood as we gather in these familiar places. The opening Autumnal month, with its fulfilment of Summer’s promise, fitly symbolizes the joy, which, in the fruition of our hopes we are permitted to know this day. All human speech is feeble in the presence of such a tide of recollections as must bear sway in minds of many now before me. It would seem more fitting that the silence should be unbroken, in order that the golden eloquence of memory, as it is busy with the past, might be the only guide and interpreter of the thoughts of the hour.

But we are met to rehearse the lessons of days “lang syne.” Some of us stand here after an absence of forty years, others of a quarter of a century, very many for the first time since they left these scenes of early and delightful instruction and association. I fancy the tones of yonder bell, never fell on the ears of pupils more ready to respond to its call than they did to-day. When the summons came that

school "would begin again" for us, we made haste to be ready, and we have quickened our pace that none of us should be tardy at the roll-call. We meet, the largest number of pupils and of teachers that ever assembled at the opening of a term. Indeed, for the first time, the old house is too small. We come to register our names, to claim our membership, to relate the story of our vacation to see what lessons shall be assigned us for the coming years, to pledge our fidelity to our work, and to be assured of the sympathy of our teachers and of each other.

Since school "was out" for us, we have had varied experiences. Along the highways and the by-ways, we have enjoyed many a play, and have met not a few rough tumbles and some serious falls and bruises. Ah, how these experiences of life have sobered and steadied, and sometimes startled us. I suspect that meeker pupils never came together than are here met. With our arrogance all beaten out of us, we are willing to confess that indeed we know little. But we miss the faces of some whom we expected to see. A part of these send kindly greetings, and assure us that their hearts are with us. But the other part are forever dismissed from earthly association. They have gone by scores, to enter that school where all sit, to learn, at the feet of Him who was meek and lowly in heart. It is a happy thought that their training here was such a preparation as to gain them abundant entrance there.

Let us fix our eyes  
On the glorious skies,  
Like them, let us watch and pray,  
Till we all shall go  
From the school below  
To the school of endless day.

We are come like children who return to the family hearthstone for a Thanksgiving reunion. Those of us who went out early, will be glad to hear that the time of our absence has been a time of prosperity and joy. Those who went out later as well as those who still remain under the roof-tree, will like to learn the story of the early days. We will all rejoice in the performance of the past and the promise of the future. What has been done is an earnest of still better things. If we shall succeed in rekindling the flame of early love and devotion, and in adding fresh fuel, thus keeping bright the altar fires of our Penates and Lares, we shall carry hence renewed zeal in all the labor and service of our daily lives, and shall foster the purpose for which this institution was founded,—the cause of sound learning, the

development of manly and womanly character, and the exemplification of pious principles and religious truth. Among the many excellences which the pupils and friends of this school love to recount as belonging to it, there is none, it seems to me, more characteristic than the generous, unselfish, public sentiment, which was always manifest whenever a fellow-pupil attained any high degree of merit and honor. I never knew of a bitter rivalry or an unworthy ambition.

And so I deem it extremely probable that the most delightful part of this, the most delightful occasion in the history of this School, will be the tales of by-gone days and deeds, the boyish and girlish recollections of joys and hopes, of labors and loves, of tender sentiments and glorious imaginings of future possibilities, and of dreams which were none the less real and delightful, because impossible of realization in the very nature of things.

But all these reminiscences belong to after-dinner speeches, and private knots of contemporaneous school-mates, rather than to the theme of historical matter, and plain statistics of general public interest.

If ever the complete history of the School shall be written, what a mine of information would be discovered and developed by such reunions! How busy our memories would be in unearthing the long buried treasures of the daily unwritten records of school-life, and how fruitful the search would prove, must be obvious to all without demonstration or argument. I bespeak, therefore, in the interest of future pupils and future friends and patrons of this institution, some thoughtful labor on the part of every one who has shared in giving or receiving instruction, that all of the interesting events may be made a matter of permanent record, before they shall be gone beyond recall.

For the first sixty years of the town's existence under its charter, it had only the opportunities for instruction afforded by its district schools. That these possessed considerable merit is amply shown by the recognized intelligence and virtue of the inhabitants of the town, most of whom received in them all, or nearly all, of their school-training. But these schools were necessarily limited in the range of subjects taught, and in the extent to which any branch might be pursued. Yet they inspired a love of learning which made higher attainments possible. They laid a solid foundation on which to rear the superstructure of academic advantages and college culture.

The immediate forerunner of the Academy was a private school opened in May, 1835, by Mr. Alexander Hyde, who was graduated the year before at Williams College. After teaching this school for

two years, he transferred it to Mr. (afterwards Rev.) Chester Fitch, of Lenox, who kept it for a short time. Mr. Hyde meanwhile opened a school at his residence, which was continued uninterruptedly for thirty years, to the great advantage and credit of the town. The Academy was organized in the year 1837, and the building erected the same year. Mr. (now Rev. Dr.) Israel Ward Andrews just graduated at Williams College, with high honor, was engaged as its first Principal. He began his labors, Oct. 16, 1837, and concluded them in Dec. 1838, teaching five terms. Miss Jerusha Perry, afterward Mrs. Rev. Francis Le Clerc, became his assistant, and continued till the end of the fourth term, Sept. 1838, when she resigned and was succeeded by Miss Judith Pierce.

Mr. Andrews remained the Principal for two years, when he was called to the Professorship of Mathematics in Marietta College—which call he accepted and which position he continued to fill till 1855, when he was chosen President of the college. This office he has honored by eminent learning and ability for twenty-two years. May his usefulness be long spared to the college and to the youth of the land!

When Mr. Andrews left the Academy in 1839, he was succeeded for one term by his brother, Samuel J. Andrews, and he, by Rev. Samuel Mathews, who was recommended by Pres. Humphrey of Amherst College, where he was graduated in 1829, as “a teacher of seven years’ experience.” He remained for one year, assisted by Miss Lucy Kimball, who was hired at a fixed salary, and who resigned “because the school did not pay expenses.”

The next year, April 1, 1840, Mr. Alonzo Kimball, a graduate of Union College, became the Principal and remained in charge until June, 1845. When he began his term of office the school had but a small income. He relieved the Trustees of all financial responsibility. The average attendance was from 25 to 30 pupils each term. Mr. Kimball was assisted by Miss Weston.

Mr. Eli A. Hubbard, A. M., a graduate of Williams College, class of '42, was next elected to the principalship. He entered upon his duties Sept. 1, 1845. He taught the School with great acceptance, a period of six terms, until March 1, 1847, when he resigned to take charge of the High School in Northampton. His assistants during this time were Mrs. Hubbard, Mr. (afterwards Rev.) Charles Ball, Miss Sarah M. Bradley (Mrs. S. S. Rogers), Miss Martha Chamberlain (Mrs. M. C. Uhler), and Miss Eliza Edwards (Mrs. William B. Fulton).

When Mr. Hubbard left, Mr. Charles Ball took charge of the school for the rest of the year.



The next Principal, who was the last one chosen for the Academy, and during whose administration of the school it became the High School, and who was its first Principal, was Rev. Thomas Amory Hall, a graduate of Williams College of the class of '38. He began his term of service in the Fall of 1847, with Mrs. Hall as his assistant. The change to the High School was made in accordance with the state law, familiar to you all, under which the School is now carried on. Mr. Hall rendered valuable aid in the inauguration of the High School project, arranging its entrance examinations and courses of study. Miss Mary Ann Smith (Mrs. Elizur Smith), was engaged to assist Mr. and Mrs. Hall, as the number of pupils was, at one time, too large for two teachers.

In the Spring of 1853, Mrs. Hall's health failing, Miss Hattie N. Fletcher of the Normal School at Westfield, was invited to assist Mr. Hall.

In the Spring of 1854, Mr. Hall, after seven years of continuous labor, resigned his position and removed to Otis to resume his pastoral work.

Mr. Henry Ellsworth Daniels, A. M., of the class of '53, Williams College, next became the Principal, entering upon his duties in the Summer of 1854. He taught successfully for two years, and resigned to engage in the study and practice of law. Miss Fletcher continued as assistant while Mr. Daniels taught, and resigned at the end of the Fall term, 1855.

Before Mr. Daniels left, he secured by his recommendation, the services of Mr. Richard Knight Adams, a graduate of Williams College, class of '54, to finish the school year. Miss Goodrich was his assistant.

At the end of the school-year, the school committee found it necessary to look again for teachers. They were so fortunate as to secure Mr. (now Rev. Dr.) Ephraim Flint, of the class of '51, Williams College, as Principal, and Miss Phœbe A. Holder, a graduate of the Normal School at Westfield, as assistant. They began to teach June 30, 1856. Mr. Flint continued to teach until Sept. 10, 1862, when he resigned to take charge of the High School in Lynn. Miss Holder taught until Dec. 1861, when she resigned to engage in teaching in another school.

During the last two terms of Mr. Flint's principalship, Miss Louisa B. Brown and Miss M. Eliza Gibbs rendered valuable assistance in teaching some of the classes.

The present Principal, Abner Rice, A. M., of the class of '44, Yale College, entered upon his duties in connection with the School in Sept.

1862. His term of service has been the longest of any teacher, and his work is the best known to many of my audience to-day. For the first four years he conducted the School without help. In April, 1866, Miss Charlotte G. Rice was engaged as assistant and continued to teach for five years. Miss M. Eliza Gibbs was engaged April 10, 1871, and taught for two terms. After her, the place was filled by Miss Isabella S. Wight, a graduate of the Normal School at Framingham, who taught two years, and was succeeded by Miss Lizzie S. Branning who taught about a year and a half. She in turn was followed by Miss Wight, who is still in service.

Such are the few recorded facts of chronological interest. The story is simple, but when the final record shall be made, and when the "books shall be opened" and it shall be known how the lives and destinies, the condition and the characters, of the pupils committed to the care of these worthy men and women, who have taught and trained for time and for eternity, have been influenced for good—how magnified will all this appear. Therefore it seems fit to say, that this record is both history and prophecy. The past is secure, and hope cannot cease for the future, for children will always keep the world from growing old. Schools are everywhere improving. New methods, while they do not discover any royal road to learning, do wonderfully improve the old highway. Looking back to the text-books of fifty years ago, and to the popular estimate at that time of what is called the education of the people, and considering what changes have been made during that time, what may we not confidently hope and expect during the school-life of some of this audience.

You will doubtless expect me to say something of the lives and labors of this goodly number of teachers to whom has been entrusted for forty years the educational and moral training of the youth of this town. But of the living, many of whom we are glad to have with us to-day, I must not speak by name. They all have earned and enjoy the gratitude of those who knew their sterling ability and faithful devotion, their kindly sympathy and dear companionship.

If teachers could see far enough into the future to know how their pupils would thank them for their earnest and loving counsels and hearty, helpful spirit of self-sacrifice, it would bridge over many a dark chasm which at the time seemed impassable, and would strengthen the courage which was so near to failing, to renewed patience over dullness, and reviving faith in perverse and incorrigible boys and thoughtless girls.

Of the twenty-eight regularly appointed Teachers, eleven Principals

and seventeen Assistants, the great majority have been spared for long lives of usefulness. Four are gone to join the Great Teacher.

Of Mr. Mathews I can give no definite information.

Rev. Mr. Hall, who died in Monterey, Sept. 17, 1871, at the age of fifty-eight, was for seven years an able teacher. His scholarship was of a high order and his services were acceptable to the patrons of the school. His teaching was of the old order of academic hearing of recitations, and he knew whether a pupil had learned his lesson. As a preacher he was earnest, convincing, and sincere. His loss was deeply mourned by those who knew his worth.

Mr. Daniels fell a victim to consumption, Oct. 16, 1866, at the early age of thirty-six. He came to his work well fitted. His methods were modern, and his teachings imparted an impetus to the school activity which is felt to-day. Admired by his pupils for his brilliancy and thoroughness, he will remain for many the model teacher and gentleman. When the tidings came of his death it seemed as if one of the brightest stars in the firmament had set. His influence was left behind permanently impressed upon those who were so fortunate as to have had such a teacher.

Mr. Charles Ball, who assisted Mr. Hubbard, and who had charge of the school for one term, was well known in this town. One of the brightest and most promising boys, one of the most reliable and earnest young men, he was an honor both to the school and to the town. By his zeal in every good work, and his thorough devotion to his calling, his presence was an inspiration. As a preacher he was greatly liked, and his early death seemed an inscrutable providence. But he neither lived nor died in vain. His mission was fulfilled, his character complete.

What shall I say further? Your own grateful hearts will supply what I have left unsaid, as memory runs back to grasp again the warm hand or to look into the dear eyes, long since closed to earthly scenes, and laid aside from earthly activities. In after years may it be possible for our friends to recall us, as we to-day, recall these whom we love and reverence.

Of the many friends of the school who have been its faithful adherents and warm supporters, and who are here to rejoice in its success to-day, I cannot find fit phrases to tell their merits, true, and tried. Yet I must mention the name of one who for more than forty years has been the able and loyal friend of education; one who has had for this whole period one of the laboring oars, and to whom, I doubt not, this school not only, but this town, is indebted, more than to any other man, for hard, faithful, long-continued service. May his activity

in the good work never cease. You all know this can be no other than Alexander Hyde.

Of the friends of the School whose counsels can never be ours again, and whose loss we mourn as we celebrate their triumphs to-day, there is one man, I think, deserving both by his prayers and his efforts for this School, of the highest honor and the deepest regard in the heart of every graduate. Whenever any trial or discouragement or difficulty arose, all eyes were turned to him and never turned in vain. No sacrifice of time in the midst of an active business life, no measure of responsibility while beneath the heaviest loads of care, no amount of labor when weighed down under toil, was thought too great, if by it he could serve this School. In town meeting, in the social circle, in the legislature, in the street, in the School itself, in every place, he talked and he worked for, and he was well and honorably known as the friend of, education, and of public schools. His reputation needs no words of praise, but I feel I owe him a personal debt. Every boy and girl who ever studied within the walls of this institution is happier and wiser to-day because of his toils and sacrifices. I know that all who felt his influence in the earlier days of the school, when such influence as his was needed, will be glad to honor his memory. I need not tell you that I refer to Samuel Augustus Hulbert. One such man as he in a community is a tower of strength. Upon whom has his mantle fallen?

There are other names which should be mentioned. The older pupils remember Ransom Hinman, with his pleasant talks on grammar and penmanship and good manners; in all of which he was a model worthy of imitation; Alexander P. Bassett, who served so many years on the Committee, and who was ready and able when teachers failed, to lend a helping hand; Dr. Gale, so long and so firm a friend and advocate, in school and out of it, for the highest intellectual, moral and religious culture; a man who has left his impress on the town for good, in so many ways never to be effaced,—these, and many who should be mentioned did time permit, we will hold in honor and everlasting gratitude.

The Academy building was erected by a stock company in 1837. The shares were \$25, and 120 in number. In 1865 there had been transferred to the town sixty-four of these shares, representing \$1,600. The land on which this building stands was donated by the American Bible Society. The house may now fairly be regarded as owned by the town, for it controls a majority of the shares of stock, and the few surviving stockholders are well disposed to the school.



The average attendance of the school has been very even.

Under Principal Andrews it was 54; Hubbard, 66; Hall, 62; Daniels, 52; Flint, 67; Rice, 70.

The number of teachers averages 2. The rate of tuition (as an Academy) was four to six dollars per quarter.

The appropriation (as a High School), for the last twenty years, averages for the school at the Center, \$1,500; for the school at South Lee, \$250; making a total of \$1,750. This divided by 70, the average number of pupils, gives \$25 per pupil for the four quarters of the year. This, in the number of dollars, equals the rate of tuition in the Academy. But as the purchasing power of a dollar was then at least twice what it is now, the school costs at present but one-half what it used to cost, and the poor man sends his boys and girls. This great gain is matter of public congratulation.

I must not fail to mention the Branch High School, which for many years has been sustained at South Lee during the Winter months, for the accommodation of pupils who could not conveniently attend the school at the Center. The teachers and the pupils have done faithful work, and this school may now be considered as established on a permanent foundation.

I am aware that what I have given of the history of the school is known to many of you as well as, or even better than, it is known to me. I am sure my account is incomplete. I trust, however, it is not inaccurate in any important particular. I have made careful examinations of records, many of them too brief to tell all the story; I have endeavored, by extended inquiry and correspondence, to get additional information, and I hope I have found sufficient to encourage some one to undertake the task of writing a complete history.

While the standard of attainment has always been high, the efficiency of the school has steadily increased under its present able administration, until it is considered, I am assured by competent judges, as second to no similar institution in this section of the State. Since 1872, there has been a regular course of study, on the completion of which, the graduate receives a diploma.

But while the school is so well managed and taught, its possible usefulness is very much impaired by the lack of desirable necessary apparatus in Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the general sciences. Would it be amiss for me to suggest that those graduates who are able to do so, should, in return for what the school has done for them, see that this want is speedily supplied? Will you pardon me if I further urge your attention to the condition of the grounds, which may be improved at small expense, and beautified by shrubbery, flowering, and

other ornamental plants, and a well cut lawn. I am sure there are many who will be glad to contribute towards placing this new department of æsthetics among the educational forces of this excellent institution.

The friends of this School have always been ready to do battle for it on all occasions. The rich and the poor, who know the blessings of free universal education, have joined hands in its support. I well remember the pride with which many a boy listened in town meeting to the speeches made by its friends, for the necessary money to carry it on another year. I seem to see, as if it happened yesterday, a poor man, abjectly poor, rise to his feet and tell the voters what the school had done for him in his poverty; how his children had been taught year by year, as if he had untold wealth at his command; how they had been fitted for stations in life far better than the one to which they had been born; how, by the blessed influence of this education, he looked hopefully to coming years, feeling that he could lie peacefully down in the silence of the grave, thanking God for nothing better for those he loved than the advantages of such instruction. When he sat down, the vote was passed by a good majority. I remember, too, on another day, when the law was cited that the town was liable to a heavy fine if the school should not be sustained according to the provisions of the statute, and a man of some influence had said that "nobody would enter a complaint," that he "would stand between the town and all harm," a man of another stamp, who was accustomed to do what he promised and whose children had enjoyed the advantages of the school and who prized it highly, rose to his feet and said, "Mr. Moderator, I wish to give notice that if this vote is not passed, I will enter a complaint against the town before to-morrow night." The vote was passed that time, too.

Indeed, I think there has never been a year when the town has failed to do its duty. In its earlier years, the fate of the school used to tremble in the balance, but the sterling sense of its many supporters, backed by the strong arm of wise statutes, has turned the scale in its favor at last.

The great money-making machine of Massachusetts is not her factories or her mills, but her public school system. It is this which has given her wealth and capital; it is this which has given her such advantages in controlling the industries of the country. The larger the sum she expends for education, the richer she grows.

It is a well known fact, that the development of the brain power of a country pays the largest return, not only in refinement and culture, but in dollars and cents. Intelligent labor of all kinds is always in demand. The efficiency of the educational system of a country is the

index of national prosperity. Ideas rule the world. Brains own and control muscle not less than they rule the elemental forces of Nature. Happily for all who reap the advantages of public school education in this town, the value of this highest department is known and admitted by those whose duty it is made by the wisdom of the State, and whose privilege it is considered by themselves to provide for its support. While the course of study here has always been adapted to fitting boys for college, it has not sent a large number thither. Its chief work has been done in giving a good academic training for business and social life. It has always had a goodly number of pupils in proportion to the number of inhabitants of the town, and whenever it has sent boys to college they have not disgraced their course of preparation. It has had, without exception, teachers of ability, of good character, of pious lives, who have trained their pupils by precept and by example, in both human and divine wisdom. The many questions of education which have vexed other schools have not affected it. It has taught science and religion, and discovered no conflict between them. It has gone quietly on its way reading the Bible and asking God's blessings on its pupils in their labors, as if it were a right and proper thing to do. It has abolished corporal punishment because the occasion for it disappeared when the law of love appeared.

The outcome of such a course of training under such influences, is most fortunate. The graduates of such a school must be imbued with good principles and devoted to good deeds. They must grasp and settle for themselves, and perchance for others, some of the most important problems that can confront the human understanding. They are called on as citizens of a free republic, to consider and decide questions of political economy, of State rights, of international equity, of statute law, of public morality, and of Christian ethics. These are but a small part of the task set before the boy and girl who steps out across the threshold of the High School.

What evidence is there that this preparation is ample? In what has there been shown a fitness to discharge such high duties? If we look beyond the ordinary responsibilities of good citizenship and faithful domestic life, I think that the most satisfactory answers can be found when we consider the sacrifices made by the graduates of this school, who were engaged in our late civil war, and who must have prepared for such a conflict while peacefully studying the principles of good government, of law and order, of sound morality and political justice. It is the high reward of those who die in defense of their native land, that their names are forever sweet in the mouths of those for whom they died. Their title to nobility none shall ever dispute.

The men who, in the simple devotion of heroic citizen soldiery gave themselves to the dangers of the camp and the battle-field that the nation might not die, were permitted, as few have been in their mortal career, to bear a most important part in making one of the grandest chapters of history the world has ever known. "Events are not history. Behind the events is the law and behind the law is an immutable and a just Jehovah. All history is a growing up into the light." Above the wail and the shout and the shock of battle, Truth strikes out the key-note of a sublimer conflict, and ever and anon "there steps out grandly from the Infinite" one who gives victory to the right. The mission God gave this country, is the lofty ideal of an exalted humanity, the right of men everywhere under the broad canopy of Heaven to become what God made them to be, "heroes and sons of God," working out His eternal purposes in the light of reason and loyalty. Before such a mission all bow in glad and willing homage, for though its approach may be hindered by the darkness of ignorance, though kings may scoff at it and statesmen deride, yet the nations stand on tiptoe waiting for its glorious appearing, and it will come at last crowned with might and majesty. In honoring these men there is no desire to perpetuate the memory of civil strife, or to keep alive sectional animosities, but to show our appreciation of all knightly deeds. The rough school of war taught not only the soldier, but every American, to lay aside local prejudice and bigotry when it brought him face to face with the stern realities of loyalty and brotherhood and equal rights; to entertain a humbler estimate of himself, and a juster one of his own and other countries when it showed him the price at which national blessings must ever be secured and maintained. That government alone is safe and strong which lives in the virtuous homes of its citizens. The heart, and not the head, is the fountain of patriotism. The heroic affections of a people are the strongest political cords of a nation. In these affections are involved honor and magnanimity, justice and charity. He who loves his home with his tenderest passion, will love his country with like steadfast devotion. The brightest light which can guide, and the most genial warmth which can cheer a human soul, radiate from a happy hearth-stone. All that is dear to us in our social life is strengthened and perpetuated by a righteous government, and that national policy is suicidal which does not shine into the humblest cottage, to awaken in the loving bosoms of its inmates unbounded trust and unstinted assistance. I care not what section of country a man may claim and glorify as his own, if he have faith in human fellowship and believes in fervent prayers. No labor or sacrifice will be too great for him to perform that he may



help to make the condition of the civil and religious life of all God's creatures as free and as strong and as happy as he finds or fancies his own to be, when his heart is filled with the joys which cluster around his own quiet fireside. Ah, fortunate America, whose radiant homes are a perpetual pledge and inspiration to high national privileges and a beneficent government!

The honor of being patriot soldiers we cannot all claim; but we can claim, as citizens of the republic of letters, an interest in their deeds beyond that which he feels, whose calling does not need the undisturbed quiet of the peaceful reign of law. All literary pursuits are fostered by freedom. In the interest of patriot scholars, therefore, I thank our patriot soldiers for compelling and making possible the continuance of that peace which gives leisure and opportunity for intellectual labor. None owe them a greater debt of gratitude than do the men of letters, and, happily, they can partly pay this debt. The pen records the achievements of the sword, and keeps green the name and fame of him who wields it. Cicero uttered a significant truth for nations and for individuals, when he declared that but for the Iliad the same grave that held the body of Achilles would also have entombed his name. But let it never be forgotten that while the student trimmed his lamp the soldier lighted his camp fires; while the scholar preached truth and freedom, the soldier practiced and defended them; while the former threaded the academic walks, the latter marched along the valley of the shadow of death. Recorded honors cluster over their graves, and every place in which a soldier's dust reposes has been consecrated forever and ever to the country for whose government and liberty he gave up his life. And until years shall cease to roll and human hearts to beat, there will never be a man, in whatever rank of life you find him, who, with the memory and the glory of the brilliant achievements of the Army of the Republic before him, will not gird and guide himself with a higher sense of the spirit and power of truth, of justice, of humanity and of right. Our companions "are lost to human sight, but not lost to the Omniscient eye, not lost in the august reckoning in which institutions and persons will be called to account, not lost in the distribution of palms, not lost in the award of crowns and jewels."

This hour belongs both to the living and the dead. It goes back along the track of noble lives, and it points forward to heights yet unattained. What need I say more? If such lives and such deeds and such deaths are possible as the fruit of the intellectual and moral and religious instruction to be had without distinction and without price, by every child in the land, the problem is solved and the claims of education must be acknowledged.

It remains for us patriots, all, whether scholars or soldiers or citizens, to highly resolve to welcome and to divinely entertain the pure, sweet spirit of Liberty.

“Who cometh over the hills,  
Her garments with morning sweet,  
The dance of a thousand rills  
Making music before her feet?  
Her presence freshens the air,  
Sunshine steals light from her face.  
The leaden footstep of Care  
Leaps to the tune of her pace,  
Fairness of all that is fair,  
Grace at the heart of all grace!  
Sweetener of hut and of hall,  
Bringer of life out of naught,  
Freedom, oh, fairest of all  
The daughters of Time and Thought!”

“Tell me, young men, have ye seen  
Creature of diviner mien,  
For true hearts to long and cry for,  
Manly hearts to live and die for?  
What hath she that others want?  
Brows that all endearments haunt,  
Eyes that make it sweet to dare,  
Smiles that glad untimely death,  
Looks that fortify despair,  
Tones more brave than trumpet’s breath;  
Tell me, maidens, have ye known  
Household charm more sweetly rare?  
Grace of woman ampler blown?  
Modesty more debonair?  
Younger heart with wit full-grown?  
Oh, for an hour of my prime,  
The pulse of my hotter years,  
That I might praise her in rhyme  
Would tingle your eyelids to tears,  
Our sweetness, our strength, and our star,  
Our hope, our joy, and our trust,  
Who lifted us out of the dust  
And made us whatever we are!”

“Maiden half mortal, half divine,  
We triumphed in thy coming; to the brinks  
Our hearts were filled with pride’s tumultuous wine:  
Better to-day who rather feels than thinks:  
Yet will some graver thoughts intrude  
And cares of nobler mood:  
They won thee: who shall keep thee? From the deeps  
Where discrowned empires o’er their ruins brood,  
And many a thwarted hope wrings its weak hands and weeps,  
I hear the voice as of a mighty wind  
From all Heaven’s caverns rushing unconfined,—  
‘I, Freedom, dwell with knowledge: I abide  
With men whom dust of faction cannot blind  
To the slow tracings of the Eternal Mind;  
With men, by culture trained and fortified,  
Who bitter duty to sweet lusts prefer,  
Fearless to counsel and obey:  
Conscience my scepter is, and law my sword,  
Not to be drawn in passion or in play,  
But terrible to punish and deter,  
Implacable as God’s word,  
Like it a shepherd’s crook to them that blindly err.  
Your firm-pulsed sires, my martyrs and my saints,  
Shoots of that only race whose patient sense  
Hath known to mingle flux with permanence,  
Rated my chaste denials and restraints  
Above the moment’s dear-paid paradise:  
Beware lest, shifting with Time’s gradual creep,  
The light that guided shine into your eyes:  
The envious Powers of ill nor wink nor sleep;  
Be therefore timely wise,  
Nor laugh when this one steals and that one lies,  
As if your luck could cheat those sleepless spies,  
Till the deaf fury come, your house to sweep!’  
I hear the voice and unaffrighted bow:  
Ye shall not be prophetic now,  
Heralds of ill, that darkening fly  
Between my vision and the rainbowed sky,  
Or on the left your hoarse forebodings croak  
From many a blasted bough  
On Igdrasil’s storm-sinewed oak,  
That once was green, Hope of the West, as thou.

Yet pardon if I tremble while I boast,  
For thee I love as those who pardon most."

"Away, ungrateful doubt, away!  
At least she is our own to-day;  
Break into rapture, my song,  
Verses, leap forth in the sun,  
Bearing the joyance along  
Like a train of fire as ye run!  
Pause not for choosing of words,  
Let them but blossom and sing  
Blithe as the orchards and birds  
With the new coming of Spring!  
Dance in your jollity, bells,  
Shout, cannon, cease not, ye drums,  
Answer, ye hill-sides and dells,  
Bow, all ye people, she comes.  
Radiant, calm-fronted as when  
She hallowed that April day:  
Stay with us! Yes, thou shalt stay,  
Softener and strengthener of men,  
Freedom, not won by the vain,  
Not to be courted in play,  
Not to be kept without pain!  
Stay with us! Yes, thou wilt stay,  
Handmaid and mistress of all,  
Kindler of deed and of thought,  
Thou, that to hut and to hall  
Equal deliverance brought!  
Souls of her martyrs, draw near,  
Touch our dull lips with your fire,  
That we may praise without fear  
Her, our delight, our desire,  
Our faith's inextinguishable star,  
Our hope, our remembrance, our trust,  
Our present, our past, our to be,  
Who will mingle her life with our dust  
And make us deserve to be free!"



Mrs. M. M. Frissell of Kingston, N. Y., being introduced read the following poem, prepared at the request of the Committee :

The pilgrims of this century,  
In this new land of ours,  
Might vainly search for classic shrines,  
For antique mounds or towers ;  
Or measure gifts with those who cross  
The sea to offer gems,  
And golden gifts with ardent prayers,  
To papal diadems.  
Yet shrines we know, with spell as strong  
To summon pilgrim feet,  
As those in legends held or sung,  
Since faithful lips repeat  
Dear names of home, of church, of school,  
Trio to us infallible !

Laden with memories of these,  
We therefore come to keep  
A loving festival, near by  
Where our forefathers sleep.  
Along these streets, on these fair hills,  
By Housatonic's shore,  
Happy the few of us who find  
Our old homes' welcome door !  
The more pass on as strangers pass,  
And strangers ask the name  
Of many a one, whose fathers here  
Once dwelt secure in fame.  
'Tis the old tale ! but we must turn  
To find our mustering place ;  
Where is the old church of our youth ?  
Altar of faith and grace,  
Where even Summer birds found rest  
Beneath her sheltering eaves ;  
To children of her covenant  
Much more she welcome gives !  
Alas ! alas ! "burned up with fire,"  
Gone for this many a year !  
And though another, fairer house  
With worshippers sincere,

Stands where *it* stood, and where *they* met,  
Who made those courts so blest,  
On us a cold, gray shadow falls,—  
This place is not our rest.  
Old homes and church alike are gone  
Still must our pilgrim quest go on.

Now seek we still some unchanged spot,  
With bated breath and fears,  
Lest touch of time by man or fate,  
In thirty, forty years,  
Hath made familiar places strange,  
Us old—once young together.  
Broken forever youthful ties,  
And left us doubting whether  
Some common loves and tastes remain,  
That call us to one place again.  
Ah ! there's the old Academy,  
We greet it, roof and wall !  
There, there it stands beneath the cliff,  
So plain, "so natural !"  
The very same where first it stood  
Full forty years ago.  
Mature, yet not infirm in age,  
Strong still its work to do.  
Within we note some changes slight,  
Like wrinkles in a face  
That used to wear but dimples bright,  
Have dared to claim a place ;  
We yield us to the old-time spell,  
The place we sought this answers well,  
'Twas part and parcel of that age,  
That, in their honest way,  
Our fathers builded, *like themselves*,  
This plain Academy.

They "builded better than they knew,"  
Those self-denying sires,  
Living or dead their plan we praise,  
While it our theme inspires.

Utility to them seemed meet :  
For them the classic lines  
Of Art and Beauty had not shaped  
Fair models to their minds.  
Unto their simple, untaught eyes,  
No wood outmatched the pine ;  
No inlaid floors, no frescoed walls  
Did taste and skill combine ;  
They only sought a plain, strong tower,  
Whence learning's lamp might shed  
A steady ray, unquenched in years,  
When they, less taught, had fled  
This lower life, elsewhere to find  
Reward of service to their kind.  
What cared *we* then for plenishings ?  
Our school-rooms seemed complete,  
Maidens' and youths' dear company  
Made lessons doubly sweet.  
Then emulation wrought its charm,  
Curbed by the tie that springs,  
When sex with sex seeks mastery  
In tasks which learning brings.  
Co-educators then were we,  
Without the thought of harm,  
That later rose to vex the schools,  
And raise a brief alarm ;  
Because sex-fellowship in knowledge  
Aspires to step from here to college !

How dear are they whose names with ours,  
Answered the call of school !  
Their forms, their laugh, come back again,  
As soothing breezes cool,  
As evening airs that fan the brow  
At thoughtful twilight hour,  
While we forget the weary day,  
And care's perplexing power :—  
We think of them, we speak their names,  
Dear school-mates loved in truth,  
Bright tablets in our memories  
Hold these immortal youth,

With tears we, whispering softly, say,  
Dead school-mates, every one,  
Come fill your place with us to-day,  
'Tis empty else and lone !  
We long have mourned your youth and love,  
Ye mourn not in that world above !

Brimming with life and zeal and hope,  
We all looked forth together  
On the great world behind, before,  
The scholar's best endeavor ;  
That world of learning boundless grew,  
And we young dreamers then  
Caught glimpses of far-beckoning lives  
Awaiting earnest men ;  
Of broader, fuller, happier ways,  
All narrow ones we scorned,  
Reward of patient student days,  
As each his task performed,  
We know some found the goals they sought ;  
Some but a tether, strong,  
To quiet, useful, homely lives,—  
As worthy praise in song  
As they who touched the ideals of youth,  
Happy in fulfilled dreams,  
When passing years fresh honors brought,  
And joy's renewed beams.  
To highest teachings constant now  
Most blest are they who here  
Can trace their later, steadfast lives,  
To influence of some year  
When teacher's counsels wrought a spell  
Upon a wayward mind ;  
And friendly comrades, healthful sports,  
Their saving help combined.

Beyond the added honors given  
To teachers honored here  
By worthy pupils,—worthier grown,  
As nobler grew their sphere,—  
We now recall, with calm delight,  
Those crowned with fellowship in light.

How wise they seemed, those old school-teachers,  
Whether as school-men or as preachers !

Dare we approach them here and dream  
We are more nearly peers,  
Than in the years we have recalled.

Our ignorant young years ?

We will not drag our idols down,  
Nor yet presume to be  
Equal to those who helped us climb  
Aloft, toward the sky !

Teachers and school-mates, ever kept  
In memory sweet and green,  
Linked with this old Academy,  
Like fragrance hid, unseen,

Within the homes whereto we turn,  
Dwellers by mount and sea,  
Our hearts towards school-life scenes will yearn,  
Ever most faithfully.

We greet thee, old Academy,  
With true loving loyalty ;  
As pilgrims kneel the shrine before,  
As children hail the household door,  
We old-time school-mates will implore  
Blessings alway on thee !

The following Reunion Hymn, prepared for the occasion  
by Miss P. A. Holder, a former teacher of the School, was  
then sung :

#### MISS HOLDER'S REUNION HYMN.

From o'er the hills a glad voice calls,  
On waiting hearts its welcome falls ;  
Our year of jubilee has come,  
And bids our scattered band come home ;  
Come home, to rest from toil and care,  
Come home, in love and joy to share,  
Come home, and on this festal day  
Gain strength to tread life's onward way.

We gladly come, we gladly come,  
To greet within this dear old home

The friends beloved of other days,  
On hallowed scenes again to gaze,  
To tread once more the classic ground,  
Where purest pleasures we have found,  
To brighten still Love's golden chain,  
And strengthen broken links again.

A joyful song, a joyful song  
We raise, and still the strain prolong,  
And lift our hearts in grateful praise  
To Him whose love hath crowned our days,  
Who leads us through green pastures fair,  
Where streams of crystal waters are,  
And still guides all who seek His love,  
To perfect peace and rest above.

Soft voices sweet, soft voices sweet,  
From hours flown by on swift-winged feet,  
Of memories tender whisper low,  
And thrill our trembling spirits now;  
Still may this treasured love of old,  
Our hearts in sympathy enfold,  
Until in Jesus' love complete,  
As one in His dear home we meet.

#### THE REUNION DINNER AND SPEECHES.

After the exercises on "Fern Cliff," a procession was formed, and under the direction of Chief Marshal, T. L. Foote, marched to the dinner tent headed by the Lee band. There were exactly 279 in the procession as it passed down Main street. This number was increased by the addition of those who had not gone to the "Cliff," so that at the tables 358 were seated. After the viands had been thoroughly discussed, the speaking was opened by Pres. I. W. Andrews, of Marietta College, Ohio, the first Principal of the Lee Academy. He told the circumstances of his call to his first position; how, four weeks before his graduation at Williams College, Squire Porter, President of the Board of Academy Trustees, rapped at



his door one morning and offered him the place, which he accepted. When the Academy was dedicated, he, the first Principal, made the dedicatory address, and that was his first essay in educational literature. On his roll for the first year were 110 names; he had found about a dozen of those pupils here. He then spoke of some of his old pupils who have since passed from earth—of Charlotte Porter, one of the most brilliant girls he ever knew; and Charles Hulbert, whose noble qualities and manly character made his death so deeply felt. The first day of his second year at Lee he received a call to Marietta. He went, and there he had stayed. Only two—Stephen Thatcher and Leonard Church—are living, of the men who composed the Board of Trustees when he was principal. Since his connection with Marietta College, citizens of Lee had been especially liberal towards it,—giving \$5,000 within a short time after his going there, and adding some fifty per cent. to that amount since. He could not but rejoice that his life-work had been begun in Lee, and that he was able to come back to so interesting a celebration.

The next speaker was E. A. Hubbard, now agent of the Massachusetts Board of Education, who became Principal of the Academy in 1845, and remained for six terms. He was married, he said, in '44, and with his wife started West. They had got only as far west as Lebanon Springs when their funds gave out, and so they began to work there. They opened a school, but had continued it only three months when they were burned out. He then received and accepted an invitation to come to Lee. Mr. Hubbard told, with good effect, of a skillful bit of diplomacy he indulged in at the close of his first term. He had only 41 scholars, and as he was running the school as a private venture, he was naturally anxious to increase the number. So when the examination drew near, he



told his scholars they needn't expect to be questioned on what they knew, but rather on what they *ought* to know, and cautioned them all, if they couldn't answer his questions, to say, promptly and loudly, "I don't know." The plan worked to a charm. The "I don't knows" came thick and fast during the whole examination, and his patrons, when they saw how ignorant their children appeared, at once determined to give them another term of instruction. Lee pride was aroused; the people wouldn't have their children so ignorant, and in consequence Mr. Hubbard opened his second term with seventy-seven pupils, nearly double the number of the first. From Lee he went to Northampton, as High School Principal there. He thought he had gained the affection of some of his pupils, at least, for when he came back on a visit, a few months after, one of them threw her arms around his neck and kissed him, and she had done the same thing to-day.

Mr. Hubbard's speech was followed by music, after which an interesting "memorial poem," written by Miss P. A. Holder, and addressed to the High School pupils from 1856 to 1862, was read by Rev. Dr. Flint, who supplemented the reading with some words of his own. He alluded, as one of the sweetest things coming to his memory at this time, to the late S. A. Hulbert, whose grand character he warmly commended. Dr. Flint read a letter from Merced, Cal., giving some facts about the Houghton family, the younger members of which were his pupils, and full of reminiscence of the old school days.

Rev. Dr. Edward Taylor of Binghamton, N. Y., introduced as the "pioneer bell-ringer of the Academy," made one of his characteristically happy speeches which have given him a wide fame as a brilliant after-dinner speaker. It was true, he said, he was the "pioneer bell-ringer." The earlier teachers had told how committees had waited

on them to secure them for their position; he had no committee to wait on him. He wanted to be the janitor and to ring the bell, that thus he might get his tuition free. He sought the office, it didn't seek him. It was hard work for him, but the instruction that President Andrews gave was worth all it cost. When he was janitor he had a way of hiding the key in a place he thought nobody knew. But he used to find evidences of somebody's having been in the building before he got there in the morning. He puzzled over it for a long time, and it never was quite clear to him how the key's hiding place was found, till, that very morning, some one said to him at the door of the Academy, "You hid it under the steps," and the fellow's name was Dwight Thatcher. While he was janitor, he used sometimes to get notes from Principal Andrews. One in particular he recalled. It was in relation to the fact that the floor had not been as thoroughly swept as was desirable. He would take this opportunity to say to Dr. Andrews that he had received his "little note." He recalled how scared he and "Liph" Wright were once to receive a billet, signed "I. W. A.," to the effect that they had better make less disturbance in school. He knew they had acted like angels, and so he went to Dr. Andrews about it and found that, after all, he was not the writer. Dr. Taylor then told how Deacon Hyde had started him for college, as he had so many others, and he felt deeply indebted for that first impulse. He wanted the town to do more and more for public education.

The next called upon was Rev. Dr. E. W. Bentley of Ellenville, N. Y. He first entered the Academy, he said, on the 4th of March, 1841, the day of President Harrison's inauguration, and most of his school exercises that day occurred in the belfry. He remembered attending, in those early days, a laughing-gas exhibition in the Academy building, and how "Jim" Wakefield, under the

influence of the gas, pitched into jolly Dr. Welch, and how Edward Taylor tried to jump over the stove but didn't. Of his old associates in the Academy, nearly all were gone. He could see but three or four faces here that he recognized. He was sorry his old teacher, Mr. Kimball, whom he loved from the bottom of his heart, was not here to speak for himself, on this very pleasant occasion. Mr. Bentley told several good stories, and made a very enjoyable speech.

Franklin Chamberlin of Hartford, the Centennial-day Orator, thought not enough had been said of the first Teacher who made the Lee Academy possible—Alexander Hyde. Such an impulse was given to education by the starting of Mr. Hyde's School, that it was perfectly impossible for the town not to provide better public instruction for its children. To Mr. Hyde was very greatly due the great progress Lee has made in education within the last forty years. The speaker accounted for his present lack of hair, by accusing Mr. Hyde of having pulled it out in those early days; but, if he did, its want was more than supplied by the ideas he put into the head beneath it.

Mr. Hyde was then called upon to defend himself against the hair-pulling charge. He pleaded "not guilty," though he admitted once taking his youthful pupil by the hair—and he thought he deserved it. He spoke briefly of some of his early scholars—of Charles Hulbert, Addison Hunt, Charles Bassett, too early removed; Addison Laflin, Mansfield Lovell, the brilliant Caroline Laflin, of Charlotte Porter, and others.

W. J. Bartlett said he represented the stay-at-home class, having had energy enough not to go away from Lee. He was a member of the Academy from 1837 to 1843, graduating in the latter year as valedictorian of his class. He presented an old exhibition programme, with

an original tragedy, comedy, etc., acted by himself and others, and also original essays, which he thought then were unsurpassable. Mr. Bartlett stated, that he was distinguished as perhaps the only boy who had been under the instruction of both Mr. Hyde and Dr. Andrews.

Wellington Smith spoke, as a citizen of Lee, of the feeling in which the High School is held. The town is proud of it. In the course of instruction it gives, it is fully equal to the College of forty years ago. The citizens all mean to sustain it and have no fear of its declining in usefulness or influence.

The speaking then came down to the younger graduates, the first called up being Charles May, who said that instead of the "grog" the fathers would have felt called upon to tender their guests, he would give a good strong decoction of "brag." The High School had good ground for bragging. The valedictorian of '68, at Williams, was one of its graduates; the man who led the Williams class of '71, during Freshman year, when preparation especially tells, and who graduated with high honor, was also one; honor men at Williams and Trinity Colleges in '73, went from here, as did also the valedictorian at Brown in '74 and at Williams in '75. Such remarkable success was due to the conscientious faithfulness and the scholarly ability of the present Principal.

H. R. Gibbs of Boston, spoke pleasantly of his connection with the school, and of the many pleasant hours he had spent there. He happily excused himself from making a lengthy speech, by quoting the Latin sentiment, *E parvulo parvum*, which he freely translated, "From a little man a little speech."

C. B. Bullard, Chairman of the Executive Committee that had arranged for the Reunion, spoke briefly of the pleasure it gave the resident graduates to see so many former members of the Academy and High School at this



Reunion, and expressed the hope that they would find it thoroughly enjoyable.

The President of the Day then said, that of course the graduates would be pleased to hear of the present condition of the school, and he would call upon James W. Sutherland, one of the present members, to represent it. Mr. Sutherland made a handsome showing for the school, and his remarks were received with hearty applause.

Letters of regret were read from J. E. Bradley of Albany, N. Y., Judge Tourgee of North Carolina, and George F. Perkins of New York City. In the way of business, the following plan for a permanent organization was presented by C. B. Bullard, and was unanimously adopted, together with the list of officers proposed :

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE LEE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1.—This Association shall be called the Lee High School Reunion Association. Its object shall be to cultivate social intercourse among its members.

ART. 2.—The officers of this Association shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of nine, and shall be chosen annually.

ART. 3.—All persons whose studies at the Lee Academy or High School have been completed, may become members of this Association by subscribing to the Constitution.

ART. 4.—There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Association, at such time and place and with such exercises as the Executive Committee may determine.

ART. 5.—This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

The list of officers chosen under this Constitution was as follows : President, Wellington Smith ; Vice-Presidents, A. C. Sparks, E. H. Barlow, D. W. Allen, John Delaney, Charles May ; Secretary, S. V. Halsey ; Treasurer, H. C. Phelps ; Executive Committee, C. H. Sabin, T. L. Foote,

B. H. Taintor, H. H. Garfield, Charles D. McCarthy, Mrs. A. C. Sparks, Mrs. G. F. Bradley, Mrs. William May, Miss Mary R. Hyde.

Dr. W. F. Holcombe of New York, called attention to the fact that the High School, while provided with able teachers, was not furnished with a philosophical apparatus. Such teachers should have all available appliances to aid in their labors, and he offered to be one of twenty-five to give twenty-five dollars each for the purchase of apparatus. He made this offer, he said, because of the kindness shown him in this town, when he was a medical student here, especially by Mrs. T. A. Hall, wife of the Principal of the High School, and herself a teacher in the school. This generous offer of Dr. Holcombe drew out a response from our large-hearted citizen, Mr. Elizur Smith, who said he was not aware of the deficiency of the school in this respect, and promised to aid in remedying the defect, a promise he fully redeemed Centennial Day, by a donation of five hundred dollars. Thus happily ended Reunion Day, a fitting prelude to the Jubilee of the Centennial.

#### CENTENNIAL DAY.

The morning of Centennial opened bright, and at an early hour the crowd began to assemble to witness the procession of fantastics, representing the aboriginal owners of the soil, and the costumes and customs of the first white settlers, mingled with some grotesque negroes and other characters, partly historical and partly fabulous. This part of the program the Committee were not responsible for, but winked at it for the humor of the thing and the gratification of the multitude. Mr. H. N. Horton was master of these ceremonies, and the manner of their execution did great credit to his genius and executive ability in this line. It had been arranged that this procession should move at 8 o'clock, and should be heralded



by the ringing of all the bells in the village and the blowing of the steam-whistles of the several mills. The bells and whistles were on time, and made the hills to echo and re-echo with their clangor. Heading the parade was a detachment of special police.

Then came the Water Witch drum corps, followed by a troop of mounted Indian warriors. Succeeding these was a company of plantation darkies seated on a stupendous ox-cart, followed by a number of grotesque figures on horseback, among them the Father of his Country with his beloved Martha and the rotund Falstaff. Next in the procession, was a log cabin of the olden time, with the aged sire peaceably smoking his pipe, while his ancient companion plied the busy needles. Then came a collection of spinning wheels, worked by dames in the costumes of the past century. Another detachment of masked horsemen, of jolly negro minstrels, several wagons of old etc., with a pair of wagon wheels conspicuously labeled "The first wagon wheels used in town," brought up the rear. In front of Memorial Hall the procession halted, on its course down Main street, and C. E. Tucker delivered an elaborate and highly-finished oration—bright, witty, and full of taking local hits.

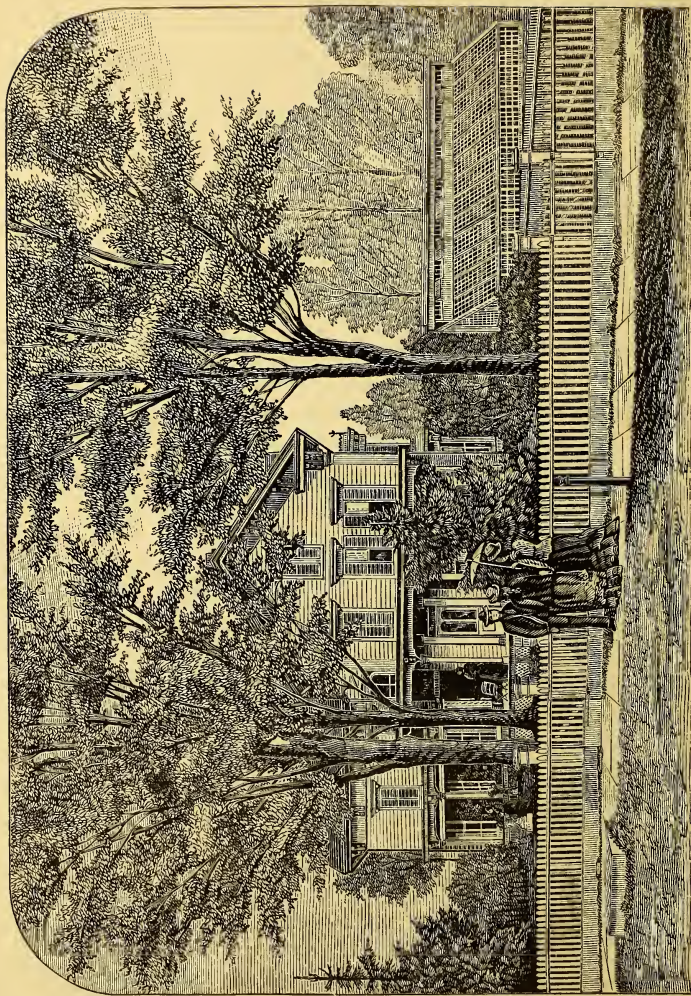
At ten o'clock, the hour appointed for the literary exercises of the day, the Congregational Church, with a seating capacity for twelve hundred, was filled as it was never filled before. Every seat was occupied and the aisles were crowded. Hon. Harrison Garfield presided and called the assembly to order, prefacing the exercises with the following introduction:

#### GREETING OF MR. GARFIELD.

*Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

The hour has arrived to which we have invited you to join with us in celebrating this hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of this town.





RESIDENCE OF H. GARFIELD.

An act of the General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay, on the eighteenth day of October, 1777, was passed incorporating several grants of land that had been made to individuals and corporations, into the town of Lee, giving it a name, place and standing among the towns that surround us, the youngest of them all.

In view of the approaching Centennial of its incorporation, the inhabitants of the town, in town meeting assembled, in April, 1876, voted unanimously to notice, in an appropriate manner, this event, and to have collated and published an authentic history of the town, and chose a Committee of thirteen of its citizens to take in charge this matter.

In pursuance of these instructions of the town, the Committee entered upon their labors, and fortunately secured the Rev. Dr. Charles M. Hyde, a grandson of our late greatly beloved and long-time pastor, the Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde, to engage in these labors. Mr. Hyde entered upon this work with much energy early in the year 1876, searching the records of this town and in the State Department at Boston, and in all places where scraps of information could be found, prosecuting his labors nearly to completion, up to February last, when he received an appointment from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to take charge of the Pacific Theological Institution, at the Sandwich Islands. It was expected that Dr. Hyde would give the Historical Address. The Committee, however, were brought to no extremity in thus being called to part with him, but fortunately secured the Hon. Franklin Chamberlin, of Hartford, Conn., who was a long-time resident of this town, to give this address.

This history is now nearly completed, and is in preparation for the press, and, when published, we believe will be an authentic history of this town.

These remarks I make that you may know what action the town has taken in this matter, preliminary to engaging in the further exercises of this occasion, as set forth in the printed programs that have been distributed among the audience.

To you, former residents and descendants of former residents of Lee, many of whom have come long distances to be with us on this to us most interesting occasion, we tender our congratulations upon being with us, and can only say that our hearts and homes are open to you, and we hope you will make your stay with us as long as it shall be your pleasure to do so, and enjoy our hospitalities.



At the close of Mr. Garfield's remarks, the Lee Cornet Band, under the direction of Capt. A. V. Shannon, played a greeting overture, and President Hopkins, of Williams College, led the assembly in prayer. The following ode, by E. W. B. Canning, Esq., of Stockbridge, was then sung by the choir :

MR. CANNING'S ODE.

'Tis not the trump of war,  
Or noise of deadly fray,  
That summons from afar  
Old Berkshire's sons to-day ;

But peaceful hosts  
Rejoicing come,  
And songs of praise  
Displace the drum.

In hope and faith our sires,  
The precious seed to sow,  
Here lit their altar fires  
One hundred years ago.

With life and cheer  
The desert rang,  
And homes amid  
The forest sprang.

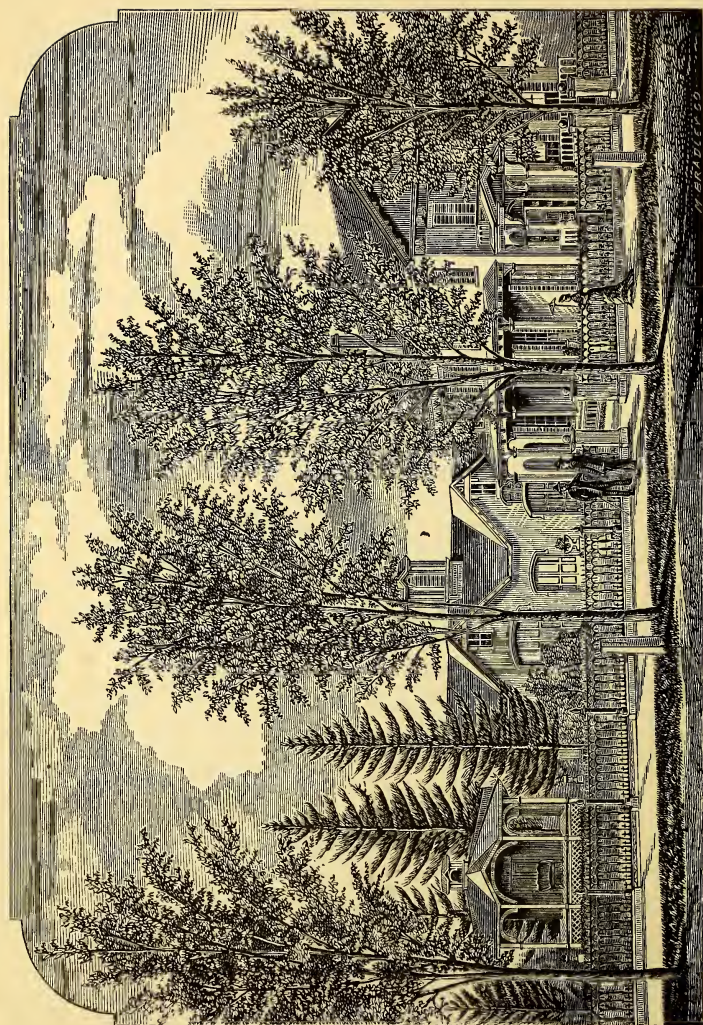
How hath the weak and small  
To wealth and honor grown !  
How hath the least of all  
Become a mighty one !

So to the brave  
And good 'tis given,  
And toil obtains  
The smile of Heaven.

Ye exiles who afar  
Have sought another home,  
To greet the eastern star  
With willing feet ye've come.







RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM TAYLOR.

The mother's call  
Ye still obey,  
And welcome glad  
She speaks to-day.

O, wander as we will  
O'er fairest scenes of earth,  
One place is dearest still—  
The spot that gave us birth.

No sky so bright,  
No fields so fair,  
No friends so dear  
As childhood's are.

May He whose banner led  
Our fathers in the past,  
His constant blessing shed  
While centuries shall last.

And be these hills  
And vales the home  
Of thrift and peace  
Long years to come.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY HON. WILLIAM TAYLOR,  
OF LEE.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

When this town of Lee was incorporated, a century ago, not more than 150 persons resided within its limits, and nearly, or quite, half of its able-bodied men were in the Revolutionary army.

Dense forests covered most of its soil; few highways had been opened; bridges did not then span our streams; the dwellings of the early settlers were rudely constructed, and rudely furnished, and all of the earlier town and religious meetings were held in the dwellings or barns of these settlers.

What changes in a hundred years! Of the early fathers and mothers, not one remains. The same grand old mountains and hills encircle us, and the same valleys are spread beneath our feet, but now "the pastures are clothed with flocks, and the valleys, also, are covered over with corn." The same bright streams still "to the ocean run," but at the bidding of intelligent enterprise they now bring to us the hum and

reward of well directed industry. Then no church edifice or school house had been erected here. Now the structures which you here see, speak for themselves.

And to these pioneer fathers, we are largely indebted for our present prosperity. Amid poverty and great privation, "in weakness which became strength," they patiently and perseveringly labored and prayed, and we have entered into the fruit of their labors. They opened the forests; they cleared and cultivated these fields; they trained up Christian households; they planted the Church and the school; and in Christian faith and hope, they laid deep and strong the foundations of our best institutions. Honor, everlasting honor, to their memory.

In reviewing the history of their faithful labors, we find the names of Yale and Ingersoll and Bradley; of Bassett and Thatcher and Foote, and others of like spirit, who wrought valiantly and faithfully, and with wise forecast, to secure privileges which have made us indeed a favored people. And in this good work, they were for more than forty years led by their sainted pastor of precious memory, Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde, "whose record is on high."

We, the sons and daughters of Lee, should be grateful that so rich an inheritance is ours, and we should guard it well. Should we not lovingly commemorate the virtues and cherish the memory of these heroic, God-fearing fathers and mothers, and tread reverently the soil on which they labored and died; the soil of our birth and of their burial?

You, the returning children of Lee, may in yonder cemetery find a greater number of familiar names, than you will see of familiar faces, in our homes and in our streets; but these revered ancestors still live in our memories and in the blessed influence of institutions of education and religion which they founded and fostered, and in the good example which they left to us. Thus, though dead, they yet speak to us. Nor is the influence of their example and their lives limited to the place of their labors. You have all felt more or less of its moulding power, and every community in which your lot has been cast, has been in some measure impressed by it.

And now, on this beautiful day, with the stars and stripes floating in the breeze, and all around us, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements for celebrating this Centennial of the Incorporation of this town of Lee, and of all its citizens, I extend a cordial welcome to ALL who have come to aid and cheer us by their presence and by their kindly interest in these reunion services.

To you, our brother, the orator of the day, and to her, whom in life's younger days you here chose to be your partner for life, I extend a glad and hearty welcome.



We rejoice that in our opening Invocation we were led by that pillar of strength to Williams College and the Church, Rev. Dr. Hopkins, to whom the town of Lee should be grateful for training her cultured sons who all love him as a father, at whose feet many educated men have sat, as did Paul at the feet of Gamaliel.

Under the date of September 26th, 1776, (one year before the incorporation of the town,) we find the record of the *first* marriage which appears on the records of the town, to wit: that of "Capt. Josiah Yale to Ruth Tracey." We rejoice to see in this audience, a son of this first recorded marriage, our venerable former townsman, Mr. Josiah Yale, and his two daughters, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, thus presenting to us, in a goodly group, every link (from childhood up) of a living, present, close connection with one of the earliest and best of the households of the town.

Returning sons and daughters of Lee, welcome, thrice welcome to you all! May God bless you, *every one*. We welcome you to this dear old home, around which cluster such tender memories. We welcome you to this spot, made sacred by the fond remembrance of a father's love, of a mother's unceasing care, and of the affections of brothers and sisters. We welcome you to this your native soil, which is hallowed in holding the precious dust of loved ones who have gone before us to their everlasting rest. We cordially welcome you to our hearts, to the hospitality of our homes, and to all the festivities of this thanksgiving-day—not of a year, but of a century.

And we not only welcome, but *thank* you for coming from your widely scattered homes, to join us in this family gathering at the "Old Homestead," that we may here renew former friendships; that we may here join hands in mutual love; that we may, from your own lips, learn of the way in which God has led you; that we may here encourage and strengthen each other in all worthy endeavor; that we may, in this consecrated place, *unite* in thanks for mercies past, and in petition for blessings to us and to those who shall succeed us in all time to come. Bound to you, as we are, by the fond memories of early days, and by the ties of blood and of affection, we rejoice in your prosperity and honor.

Life passes rapidly away. We cannot again all meet on earth. May this reunion be to each of us a type and presage of an immortal union in that better land of eternal life, and light, and joy. There may we all, as members of the "household of faith," be greeted by the songs of angels, and by our Divine Master and Savior to a blessed "WELCOME HOME!"

## RESPONSE BY HON. WILLIAM HYDE, OF WARE.

There is nothing more pleasant than a cordial welcome. To return to the home of our youth seems to be a natural desire. One of our sweetest poets who began in his boyhood to chant the smoothly flowing numbers of "Thanatopsis" near the sources of the Agawam, and in his early professional life on the banks of the Housatonic, sang of "Green River," and of "Monument Mountain," returns in his green old age to his paternal acres to bless the dwellers in that secluded mountain town, with the material for their mental and social culture. To those of us who went out from you in the morning of life, it is pleasant to feel that the place where we were born and reared is one to which we can refer with pride. We have never heard the question, "Can any good thing come out of her?" Good things have been expected, and many good men and women have gone from Lee to bless all parts of the land and of the world. But the good did not all go. We see around us evidence that not all of the energy and enterprise has sought other fields. The new comers have perhaps more than made good your losses. We have watched your growth, and have rejoiced in your prosperity. The blessings of Heaven have been sought, and not in vain. The church has kept pace with your business enterprise. Your schools have been carefully watched. Your leading men have been on the side of good order and of the institutions of piety and religion. Few places can show a more healthy growth, or present a more cheerful and thrifty appearance.

My lot has been cast not far from you, and for fifty years my visits have been more than that number. The changes do not appear so great to me as to those who come back after a long absence. The first paper mill was built here the year of my birth. The slow process of dipping the mould in the pulp and laying each sheet on the felt was carefully watched by me when a boy. Twenty years ago, Lee was said to produce more paper than any other town in the United States. Other places may do more now. Your population has quadrupled, and your business has done much more than that. It is not with your material thrift that the deepest interest is felt. We turn back to-day to the men who early came here and gave form and character to society. Some of us seem to stand as connecting links between those men and the coming generations.

During the war of 1812, when the election of governor was on the first Monday in April, when the mud was deep and the snow banks prevented moving on wheels, I saw coming down Hawk's hill by my father's house a venerable man seated in an arm-chair in a large



sleigh, drawn by two horses. His hair was white, he wore a cocked hat and gray overcoat, and leaned upon his staff for support as the sleigh was drawn across the bridge up to the front door of the church, where the town meetings were then held. Two strong men, his grandsons, lifted the chair and its occupant from the sleigh and bore him up the broad aisle to the deacon's seat, where he deposited his vote for Caleb Strong for Governor. This must have been in 1814 or '15, when politics ran high between the Federals and Democrats. That man was William Ingersoll, the moderator of the first town meeting, chairman of the first Board of Selectmen, and of the "Committee of Correspondence," the first Town Treasurer and Highway Surveyor, and whose name stands first as a member of the Congregational Church, organized in 1780. His farm bordered on the Housatonic from the quarry on the Van Deusen farm, nearly around to South Lee. His house stood opposite the bend of the river, on the brow of the hill just east of the brick house of Mr. Langdon. He was the owner of about 1,000 acres of excellent land, and planted his seven sons, Moses, Aaron, David, Elijah, Jared, William, and Calvin, around him. His descendants of the sixth generation are here to-day, inheriting the blessings of a pious ancestry.

As Mr. Taylor has said, the first marriage recorded upon the town records is that of Capt. Josiah Yale and Ruth Tracey, September 26th, 1776. For twenty years he was selectman, and represented the town in the Legislature six years. Modest and retiring in his manners, his wisdom and discretion gave him great influence in the town and in the Church. He was a healer of difficulties, and to him was the town greatly indebted for the church building erected in 1800. His descendants of the fifth generation appear and are the same as the sixth of William Ingersoll. I name these two as representative men.

The town has been greatly blessed in its ministry. It does not become me to speak fully of the long and faithful services of Dr. Hyde. He came here at the age of 22, when there were but 21 males in the Church. The records show 110 additions in eighteen months, and more than 700 during his ministry. He feared God and loved this people. He was really the first one to act as pastor. The weekly conferences in the seven school districts in rotation, when he would propose a subject and ask each one present to express his views, and sum up the case himself, brought him in close connection with the people and gave him great power and influence. One who did not sympathize with him in his religious views once said to him that "Lee was Hyde bound." It was in the family that I have the most occasion to remember him. The morning and evening prayers, the

Saturday evening Biblical and catechetical lessons and songs of praise, are among my most hallowed remembrances. There were eleven of us children. We could all repeat the Assembly's Shorter Catechism, the questions being asked without a book and the slightest mistake corrected. A good man's influence is perpetuated after he is gone.

Of Dr. Gale I might speak more freely. His first pastorate of nine years was over my own church. He came to you with a rich experience, a love for his work, and for this people, which endured to the end. We were always fast friends, and counselled together in matters pertaining to Christ's kingdom to the time of his death. He has so recently passed away I will not enlarge. You have honored yourselves in honoring his memory. These pastors died in office, and their graves are with you.

In all the changes that have taken place here in fifty years, nothing is more marked than in the drinking customs of the people. I am not inclined to say, "The former days were better than these." I see progress all around. When Dr. Hyde was settled here in 1792, with a salary of sixty pounds, (\$200,) to aid him in building a house, a subscription of thirty pounds was made payable in materials and labor. The first and largest sum, by the principal merchant, was fifteen shillings "in nails, glass or cider." In my boyhood, the use of intoxicating drinks was almost universal. There were seven taverns and as many stores that sold them in a population of 1,200. Cider-brandy distilleries were frequent. When the Berkshire Association of thirty Congregational ministers was to meet here, I was sent to the store for two quarts of Santa Cruz and two quarts of Jamaica spirits, one dozen of pipes and two large papers of tobacco. The clergy used both spirits and tobacco. It was thought inhospitable not to offer them on all occasions. I have attended weddings, where "cider-brandy sling" came around in pint tumblers, from which all drank, the bride and groom first, then the minister. These customs were fearful. The church records will show repeated confessions of its members who were overcome. The American Temperance Society was formed in 1826. The ministers and leading men took hold of the work in earnest. The blessing of God followed. Many were saved whose feet had well nigh slipped. Are not these better days? What minister or church member, or any other man, has any standing who indulges an appetite for strong drink? Who that loves his fellow men will now sell it?

I could indulge without limit in reminiscences that might be interesting, but I leave them for the orator and the historian.

At the close of Mr. Hyde's address, the choir sang the following Anthem, prepared for the occasion by Miss P. A. Holder, formerly the Assistant Principal of the Lee High School :

On the dial of the ages,  
Marked by path of rolling years,  
See the hand majestic pointing  
Where a cycle full appears.  
Pause—its hour sublime is sounding  
From the minaret of Time,  
Answering bells in silver chorus  
Ringing out our Century's chime.

Circling on, the clear vibrations  
Through our peaceful valley sweep,  
While the listening, waiting mountains  
Echoing, give responses deep.  
Catch the strain in swelling choral,  
Roll the full, deep tide along;  
Raise our Century's lofty anthem  
On the voice of sacred song.

While the fathers sleep, their children  
Welcome this auspicious day,  
Live to see the light and glory  
Shining o'er the Century's way.  
Standing on this mount of vision,  
Wondrous things our eyes behold,  
Life grows nobler, richer, purer,  
Precious joys the years unfold.

God, who sitteth in the heavens,  
Throned amid eternal spheres,  
In whose sight an era mighty,  
Like a passing day appears.  
God, our God, we bow before Thee,  
Gratefully, adoring fall,  
Thou hast crowned the years with goodness,  
Thou hast blest and given all.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY FRANKLIN CHAMBERLIN,  
Esq., OF HARTFORD.

Stretching from the southern boundary of Vermont on the north, to the north line of Connecticut on the south, and bounded on the west by the State of New York, and on the east by our counties of Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin, is an uneven tract of about 950 square miles, which constitutes the western section of Massachusetts, and which (having previously belonged to the old county of Hampshire,) was, in the first year of the reign of George III., made a distinct county, and in honor of the pleasant inland county of "Berks," in old England, was called "Berkshire." The county is of unequal breadth, being, on the line of Vermont, only about fourteen miles, while upon the southern boundary it is about twenty-four miles wide. Its surface is pleasantly broken by high hills and deep valleys. On the east, we have a continuation of the Green Mountains chain from Vermont, southward into Connecticut, and this range is graduated from its summit westward, by two or three ranges of hills of less elevation, till we come to the valley of the Housatonic river; and even through this valley, there are distinct ranges of elevated land, which have been so broken by the attrition of the centuries, as to appear to a traveler like distinct and isolated hills. Along the western boundary is the Taconic range of mountains, which extends by its easterly spurs from one to four miles, toward the center of the county. The elevation of several points in the east (the Green Mountain) range, is about 1,800 or 2,000 feet above the valley, and its general summit level may be taken as about 1,600 feet. "Saddle Mountain," lying between Williamstown and New Ashford, on the west, and Adams and Cheshire on the east, is considered as belonging to the eastern range. Its highest summit, "Greylock," nearly west of the village of Adams, is 2,600 feet above the level of the valley at Williams College, and about 3,580 feet above tide-water at Albany, being the highest point in the Commonwealth. The Taconic Range is much more elevated and broken in the south part of the county than in the north. Its general elevation, below the middle of the county, is about 1,200 to 1,400 feet. It is considerably higher in Egremont, and its highest summit, called sometimes "Mount Washington," and again "Mount Everett," is about 3,150 feet above tide-water of the Housatonic.

## THE RIVERS OF BERKSHIRE.

Among these hills and mountain peaks, the chief of the valleys, are the Housatonic and the Hoosac valleys. The first is formed and fertilized by the river which gives it its name; and the last is watered



and beautified by the Hoosac and its tributaries. The Housatonic has two principal sources, the eastern, rising in Windsor and passing south-westerly, through Dalton (where it is increased by a considerable stream from Hinsdale), to Pittsfield, at which place it is joined by the western branch, which mainly originates in the beautiful lake lying on the west side of the road leading from Pittsfield to Lanesboro, and pleasantly covering a part of the dividing boundary of those towns, by its mile and more of length and breadth. In addition to the Housatonic and the Hoosac, which are its principal streams, Berkshire has numerous other small streams, tributary to those rivers and to the Deerfield, the Connecticut and the Westfield rivers, and is beautified in its numerous valleys by a multitude of little lakes ; some of which are gems of beauty. From its valleys, one gets many bold and beautiful presentments of

#### THE SURROUNDING HILLS AND SCENERY.

In Spring and Summer, the wealth of vegetation in the valleys and the luxuriance and numerous colors of the forests on the hills, fill the eye with beauty and gladden the whole nature of the cultivated traveler with delight ; while in the Fall, these same hills and forests present, in their ripened foliage, a brilliancy and glory, and variety of color, which cannot be surpassed, and can hardly be equalled in the entire world. This grand display of Autumnal foliage is to be attributed, of course, to the great variety here gathered, of the gems and species of our American trees and shrubs,—as to which the late Professor Dewey cites the Frenchman Mirbel, as saying that the species of the oak alone, in America, were more numerous than all the species of trees in Europe. Standing upon “Greylock,” or upon “Mount Washington,” and stretching the vision north from Washington, or south from “Greylock,” the eye of a lover of natural beauty is filled with wonder and delight ; and those who have traveled somewhat widely will enjoy it most, as it cannot fail to recall to them Scotland and Wales ; the lake country, and Derbyshire, and Devon, in old England, and the most beautiful—of course not the most grand—scenery in Switzerland. As you stand upon either of these high points, your eye, after resting awhile upon the opposite peak at the other extreme of the county, wanders from one to another of the lower hills and the pleasant valleys ; from beautiful lake to swiftly-running or quietly-winding stream, and the whole seems like a vast and charming park, with its cultivated fields and gardens, its hills and groves, and its hundreds of miles of driveways, stretching along by the rivers, or winding among the hills, or skirting the borders of the quiet and lovely lakes.



## LEE'S FORTUNATE LOCATION.

In the center of this vision of beauty, six miles long by about five miles broad, flanked on the east by the high hills of Washington, and shut in on the south by the grand pile of hills called "Beartown," lies our goodly town of Lee. Nestling among the foot hills of these mountain ranges; midway between old "Greylock" on the north, and "Mount Washington" on the south, and divided by the swiftly-flowing Housatonic, (a river beautiful in name and in all its bed and border, from its source in lake and mountain spring, down among its wooded hills and pleasant valleys, to its outlet in the Sound,) Lee has enough of beauty to satisfy the desires of its children, while they remain at home, and to be a pleasant memory when they are away. It furnishes few, if any, splendid or exceptional illustrations of grandeur or of beauty, or of highest cultivation, but from its center to its utmost circumference, it exhibits intimations and possibilities of beauty and of culture, which its busy citizens have, till recently, found little leisure, taste, or wealth, to cultivate or develop. One hundred years ago, it was a wilderness, almost unbroken by the hand of civilized man. To-day, its pleasant homes, its cultivated farms, its factories and shops, its stores and counting-houses, give food, shelter and employment, to a prosperous and intelligent community of about 4,000 people. Its churches and schools, its farms, its mechanical, manufacturing and mercantile establishments compare fairly with those of any other place of similar population and pursuits in the broad world. Its quiet, steady growth from that to this, it is our privilege and pleasure to contemplate in this hour.

## THE HISTORY OF A CENTURY.

Standing thus between the living and the dead, upon this Centennial uplift, we would review the past, glance rapidly at the present, and, perhaps, endeavor to forecast a little that future, which as to any certainties, is all unknown to us. We must proceed, with rapid sketch and vision, taking in only a few of those historic facts which have special local or family interest, and which are carefully and well gathered for future reference and use, in the brief sketch contributed by the late Dr. Alvan Hyde to the "History of Berkshire," in the fuller "History of Lee," contained in the lecture of Rev. Armory Gale; in the address of the late Dr. Nahum Gale at the laying of the Corner Stone of your Congregational Church; in the address delivered at the Semi-Centennial of the Congregational Sunday-school; and finally, and much more fully, by the son and the grandson, of the best of good men and true, who have ministered to the wants and the growth of

the moral and spiritual elements of the people of Lee, in the historical notes which will be published in some convenient form in connection with the doings of this Centennial Day. The harvests there garnered will afford valuable and interesting materials from which you and your children may, and will, pleasantly gather and glean, in your quiet hours for the century which is before you, but could not be collected and compressed so as to be presented in the brief space which should be taken by this Address.

#### THE TOWN'S INCORPORATION.

Lee is one of the modern towns of this quite modern Commonwealth, and its memories are all fresh, vivid and easily called up. One hundred years and more had elapsed after the landing of the pilgrims, (December 21, 1620) before Western Massachusetts began to be settled, and the deed by which—in consideration of £460, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum, the southern half of Berkshire County was conveyed by the Indians, was dated April 25th, 1724. From this territory, known at first as the “upper and lower Housatonic townships,” Sheffield, and afterward Great Barrington and other towns, were set off and incorporated. Stockbridge was chartered in 1739, as an Indian town, six miles square; and Richmond and Lenox followed a few years later. The whole territory surrounding Lee had been settled and occupied before Isaac Davis built his farm-house near John McAllister's, and it was not till October 21, 1777, that Lee became an incorporated town. Five different special grants, “Hoplands,” “Watson's,” “Williams,” “Larrabees,” and “Glass Works,” were in whole or in part included in the township. These grants are quite fully referred to by Dr. Charles M. Hyde in the “Historical Notes.”

#### THE HOPLANDS AND WATSON'S GRANTS.

“Hoplands,” somewhat inconveniently known from its separate school fund, is a strip of land extending nearly across the southern portion of the town, and including six school districts—the two at South Lee, the one near the Charles Hinckley homestead, the two in Water street, and the one at East Lee. This tract belonged to Great Barrington prior to 1777, but was included in this town at the time of its incorporation.

Watson's Grant comprised a large tract originally purchased by Robert Watson of Sheffield (assisted by a tory lawyer named David Ingersoll) of the Indians in 1757, which constitutes to-day the town of Washington, and parts of the towns of Middlefield, Hinsdale,

Lenox and Lee. This land, before it became incorporated into the several townships with which it is now connected, passed through a number of hands, and was known by the successive names of Watson-town, Greenock, Hartwood and Mount Ephraim.

#### HOW COL. WILLIAMS "GATHERED IN" 4,000 ACRES.

There seems to have been in the "Williams" Grant (or Minister's Grant, as it is frequently and quite significantly called,) some features which, as showing some characteristics of the times, and of the leading and probably the best men of that day,—and perhaps as confirming the opinion that "there is no new thing under the sun"—may well receive our passing notice. This grant formed the northwest corner of the town, and contained about 4,000 acres. It seems to have been made by the General Court, January 21, 1740, to Col. Ephraim Williams and six associates. In the sketch of Lee, contributed by Dr. Alvan Hyde to the History of Berkshire, published in 1829, this grant is merely noticed as "Williams' Grant." In the History of Lee, by Rev. Amory Gale, (compiled and delivered as a lecture to the Young Men's Association of Lee, March 22, 1854,) it is mentioned as embracing about 650 acres in the northwest corner of the town, and in explanation of its origin, Mr. Gale says: "Col. Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams College, was an efficient soldier in the second French war, who fell in his country's service, as commander of a regiment, on the 8th of September, 1755, near the shores of Lake George, when only about 41 years of age. As a testimony of the high estimation in which he was held, the authorities granted him, before his death, this tract of land, for many years known as the "Williams' Grant." There are probably two errors in this explanation, which are easily accounted for by those who know how such histories are usually compiled by those who have little leisure, small means to expend in research, and little or no compensation for services. The quantity of land, instead of 650 acres, was about 4,000; and the grant, having been made to Williams at the early age of 20 years, was before, and not in consideration of, the special services which afterwards called attention to him. He had followed, in his early years, a sea-faring life; had visited England, Spain and Holland, where he is said to have "acquired graceful manners, and a considerable stock of useful knowledge." The first war in which he distinguished himself, was that between France and England, from 1744 to 1748, several years after this grant had been made. He is spoken of in the History of Berkshire (page 166) as "graceful and easy in address, and pleasing and conciliating in his

manners," and it is added, "He was employed in advancing the settlements in some of the towns in the county, and had an uncommon share of influence at the General Court." Having these facilities for obtaining a grant, he seems to have presented, on May 3, 1739, a memorial to the General Court, in which it is represented that he and his associates had a piece of meadow which the Stockbridge Indians would like to own, and which the memorialists proposed to have given to them, the General Court granting Williams and his associates an equivalent in the unappropriated lands of the province. This memorial was signed by two of the Indians, and there is attached to the registry, a memorandum that Williams and partners gave £450 for the land. In response to this memorial, a grant of these 4,000 acres was made to Williams and his associates as an equivalent for this "meadow which the Indians would like," and for which it is said Williams and his associates, to extinguish an adverse claim of another Indian family, paid £15. Col. Williams had connected with himself as "associates," Timothy Woodbridge, of Stockbridge, the school-master, Rev. Stephen Williams and Samuel Hopkins, of Springfield, Rev. Peter Raynolds, of Enfield, Rev. Jonathan Edwards, of Northampton, and Rev. Nehemiah Bull, of Westfield, deceased, represented by Mr. Oliver Partridge, of Hatfield. Oliver Partridge seems to have surveyed this parcel February 18, 1739, and it is described in his report as "adjoining westerly and southerly the Indian township on Housatonic river." The surviving widow of this Rev. Mr. Bull had been, before her marriage, Miss Elizabeth Partridge, of Hartford.

In the Springfield Registry of Deeds (vol. "M," p. 525) is a record of articles of agreement and division, dated January 20, 1742, between these "associates," with which is connected a plan of the land; from all of which it appears that Col. Williams had in the division 900 acres, lying around Laurel Lake. The ministers, following along northward, had each a lot of 400 acres, while flanking the last three, ministers' lots, Mr. Partridge, or Rev. Mr. Bull's estate had a lot of 700 acres. Woodbridge sold his in 1746, to Isaac Williams, of Goshen, Ct., for £280, and it was called 510 acres. In the Pittsfield and Springfield Registers and in papers in the Massachusetts Archives, this grant is called the Ministers' Grant, and there seems to be some reason to believe that the prevailing consideration, for the grant may have been the number and eminent respectability of the grantees. Dr. Edwards seems to have exchanged 240 acres of the Ministers Grant for the same quantity of land in Stockbridge in 1750, and in August, 1769, Timothy Edwards sold his father's



remaining right therein to Joseph Woodbridge, for £328. Most of this land was added to Lenox, but that which was assigned to Capt. Williams in the division, was included in the township of Lee. Dr. C. M. Hyde, after a careful and thorough examination of records and papers, in which were preserved and embalmed this grant and its accessions and surroundings, intimates that the transaction was a "peculiar one, and reveals the shrewdness of the benevolent persons who took such good care of the affairs of the Stockbridge Indians;" and we may add that, unexplained and read by the light of the comments of partisan journals, it would have seriously shadowed the prospects of a batch of presidential candidates, in the year of grace, 1876.\*

#### THE TWO OTHER GRANTS.

Larabee's grant was to John Larabee, the officer then in command of the single fort, "Castle Williams," which was thought to afford sufficient protection to the Harbor of Boston. Upon his memorial, which sets forth seventeen years of special services, a large and dependent family, a small and inadequate compensation, the Legislature, in June, 1739, voted to grant him £175, and 500 acres of the unappropriated land of the Province. This grant, located east of the Williams Grant, and duly reported to the Legislature, was confirmed to Lieut. Larabee and his heirs and assigns. He seems to have been a faithful officer, for in 1762, (the year following his death,) a grant of £50 was made to his heirs, by the General Court, in testimony of his faithful services.

The "Glass Works" Grant covered the center of the town—the present village—and was made in 1754, by the General Court, to John Franklin and his associates. It was designated "A Grant of Money to Encourage the Making of Potash;" and consisted of 1,000 acres of land. Certain parties seem to have been engaged at Braintree, now Quincy, in the attempt to manufacture "potash, cider, glass and cloth," in which they were pecuniarily unfortunate, and after various attempts to acquire, first monopolies, and then indemnities, they seem to have obtained in 1757, in addition to the former Glass Works grant, assistance "by way of lottery," which the General Court authorized them to enjoy, and voted them the use of the Hall of Representatives, as a convenient place in which to "draw" it.

#### NATURAL PRODUCTS.

In the early settlement of the town, the bear, the wolf, the moose, and the deer, were occasionally seen, and in going through the woods

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\* In the above account of the Williams' Grant, the very natural mistake is made of confounding Col. Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams College, with his father, Col. Ephraim Williams of Stockbridge, the patentee of this grant —EDITOR.



at night it was customary to carry torches to scare away the wolves. The birds, natural and spontaneous vegetation and mineral, were much the same as now. Marble, of firmness and strength, which will sustain a pressure of 20,000 pounds to the square inch, while Italian marble crushes at 13,000, and most of our American marble at 12,000 pounds, is the most valuable mineral yet found in Lee. It is, in several important respects, the best building material in the world; but it was, for many years, quite unknown to the early settlers, though cropping out in so many prominent and extensive ledges, and when John Winegar built his second dwelling house, the oldest now in town, and near Royce & McLaughlin's mills, the nearest place where he could find stone for his cellar, was on Pixley mountain. This must have been about fifteen years after Davis built the first frame house, and there were then living here a considerable number of families.

#### THE ANCIENT WORTHIES OF THE TOWN.

Of those first settlers; of Isaac Davis and his house, upon what is now the John McAllister farm; of Reuben Pixley, who gave his name to Pixley mountain, and who also built on the Hoplands, near where Harrison Garfield's farm-house now stands; of John Coffy, the Irishman, and of Hope Davis from Tyringham; of Aaron Benedict and George Parker; of William Charter, the Quaker; of Lemuel Crocker and of Asahel Dodge; of Samuel Stanley, the tanner; of John Coltraine of Tolland; of John Winegar and Jonathan Foote; of Richard Howk, whose large Dutch barn gave to his homestead the name of "Howk's Barracks;" of Josiah Yale of Wallingford, who bought a portion of the Williams or Minister's Grant, where the old Yale house now stands, and who was among the first and foremost men of Lee in public spirit and enterprise, giving his crowbar in those early days when good tough iron was not plenty, for a crank to the meeting-house bell, because "he knew that was good iron," and purchasing at full price three pews in the meeting-house, because buyers were few and money scarce; of Jesse Bradley of New Haven; of Ball, Bassett, Backus, Barlow, Gifford, Hamblin, Jenkins, and of the families driven from Cape Cod, by the distress brought to that locality by the Revolutionary War, and its closing days of large debts and taxes and paper currency; and of their early struggles with obstacles of every kind, till by untiring perseverance, economy, and industry, they changed the wild wilderness into productive farms, and replaced the small log-houses upon the mountain-side, by comfortable homes, and made passable roads, hard and worked, instead of simply following among bushes and tangled under-growth, the marked trees of the first settlers; of

the bridges over which carts and wagons could be safely driven, instead of the felled trees which, for a time, served for crossing when the streams were too deep to be safely waded; of the weary journeys from "the Cape" by ox-cart or on horseback—husband and wife, or mother and son upon a single horse,—you will find full and interesting variations in the compilations and historical notes to which I have referred.

#### THE FIRST TAVERN AND MEETING-HOUSE.

"Cape street," with its narrow valley and its convenient hill-sides for the homes of the early settlers, was at first the most populous part of the town, and there it was proposed to build the meeting-house, but Cornelius Bassett and Nathan Dillingham in 1778, built the "Red Lion" tavern on what is now the Pease lot, which was occupied as a hotel till 1833, and remained as a landmark and memento of earlier days for some years after the more modern hostelry, built where the Memorial Hall now stands, took its place as the hotel. It was the first two-story house built in Lee, and it is said that the first store, to which Job Hamblin brought from Boston by a forty days' journey, a load of salt, was kept in its buttery. This imposing and important establishment had, of course, a centralizing tendency, and aided in drawing population and the "meeting-house" to the present center.

#### THE EARLY TOWN MEETINGS.

The first town meeting was held at Peter Wilcox's homestead (a log house of one story and with only one room), Dec. 22, 1777. It is supposed the population was then about two hundred. In 1780 the meeting was adjourned "for eight minutes, to meet in Peter Wilcox's barn," indicating probably an increase of population which made the one room of a log house inconveniently small. The next place of meeting was Major Dillingham's tavern, and after that, the meeting-house for many years. Notices of town meetings were posted on the whipping post, near the meeting-house, and at the two grist mills.

#### LEE'S PART IN THE REVOLUTION.

Although the town was not incorporated at the beginning of the Revolutionary war, and though after its incorporation the records were quite imperfectly kept, it is certain that the men of Lee did their full share in supporting the Government in that birth-struggle of our national life; and of their names and services in the raising of men, of money, of provisions and horses, and other needed supplies, you will find honorable mention in the historical notes. In 1841 there were Revolutionary pensioners living in Lee whose names and

ages were: Joseph Wilder, 82; Reuben Marsh, 78; Nathaniel Bassett, 84; Joel Hayden, 78; Cornelius Bassett, 79; and Levi Robinson, 78. All have long since passed away, but their patriotic example and blessed memory will live as long as each returning Fourth of July reminds us of those who fought and suffered, that we might have freedom and peace.

#### GROG AT SIXTY DOLLARS A BOWL.

Of some of the distressing circumstances and conditions which pressed upon our fathers in those days, we can form no true idea from any of the experiences of this generation. In the war of secession we knew something of depreciated currency, and we are to-day suffering from its effects and influence. But our currency was not sufficiently depleted to give us any true conception of the baseness of that Continental currency, the worthlessness of which gave rise to the expression, "Not worth a continental." We have good illustrations of it, however, in two incidents connected with citizens of Lee. One is related of Cornelius Bassett, whose prize money as a privateer was £100, which he invested in this depreciated currency; he afterwards exchanged his currency for a watch and finally gave his watch for the land where the "Red Lion" was afterwards built; and the other of Capt. Amos Porter, who was active in both the French and Revolutionary wars, and expended a large share of his property in the support of his company, and, when peace was declared, led his company of sixty-four men up to Toucey's and treated each of them to a bowl of grog at \$60 a bowl, making a total of \$3,840.

#### LEE'S PART IN SHAYS' REBELLION.

In the long-protracted struggle, the people had neglected their private affairs; their farms and buildings had gone to barrenness and decay; business was ruined, and debts (contracted for the support of their families), were increasing in amount by the accumulation of interest, which the debtors found it impossible to pay. The private consolidated debt of Massachusetts was nearly four and a half million dollars, besides nearly one million due to officers of their line of the army; while the State's proportion of the Federal debt was about five millions; making more than ten millions of dollars of public debt pressing upon a people impoverished to bankruptcy in their own private affairs. How all this was to be paid, might well cause solicitude in the firmest minds. The paper currency, already depreciated, as we have seen, was still diminishing in value, and very little specie was in the country. The markets for produce were closed or greatly lessened,

and all means for resuming foreign trade were to a great degree wanting. Meantime, taxes were levied, and the courts, which in many places had been long suspended, met again and rendered judgments and issued executions, and creditors prepared to enforce collection of debts, by sale of property, at sacrifices quite ruinous to the debtor classes, who constituted nearly the whole people.

In these distressing circumstances were concealed the real causes of the unfortunate and ill-starred insurrection, to which its leader, Daniel Shays, gave name. It had, as we have seen, as its basis some serious troubles, and perhaps some real grievances, but like most other popular uprisings, and especially like the extensive and disastrous strike of railroad and some other laborers, so fresh in our memories, it was so conducted, as to do immense harm and no good, and became the most unhappy and disgraceful affair which ever troubled Massachusetts, and at one time it threatened the whole State with anarchy. The part taken by some of the citizens of Lee in the matter seems to have been not much to the advantage of their reputation for discretion or courage; but to-day we can well afford to forget the more serious and unpleasant memories originating in that transaction, and to speak only of such ludicrous incidents as the wild retreat of Gen. Patterson's Government veterans before Mother Perry's "yarn beam" mounted upon wheels, as the ignited tarred rope was swung in the air, and the voice of Peter Wilcox gave the order to fire; or the arrest of Jenkins and Taylor by Lovice Foot and Sarah Ellis, as clad in gentlemen's coats and hats, with unloaded guns, these bold and resolute girls compelled the timid fellows to dismount and enter the house, thus revealing themselves to their captors; while we place quite in the background the subsequent arrest of Peter Wilcox and the imprisonment from which he escaped to give name to "Peter's Cave" at the foot of our beautiful "Fern Cliff," as his hiding place, and the death of his son, Ozias Wilcox, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, shot at Sheffield in an encounter between the mob with which he was acting and the government troops, and of the men of other towns, killed and wounded in the same encounter, and the general sundering of ties of brotherhood and of neighborhoods, of towns and of churches, which was caused by this unhappy and disgraceful affair.

#### CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF THE NATION.

Let us pass on a quarter of a century, and look in passing for a brief moment at the national growth. The Articles of Confederation were approved July 9, 1778, in the third year of our independence. They were entitled "Articles of Confederation and *Perpetual Union*," and



were approved and ratified by delegates who were thereto empowered by the Legislatures of the several States. It was not till about twelve years after the Declaration of our Independence that the sovereignty of the states was merged in the higher and grander sovereignty of the nation created by the constitution. Although the second clause of the concluding article of the confederation closed with the high-sounding declaration, "the articles shall be inviolably observed by the states, and the Union shall be perpetual," their looseness and insufficiency was soon felt, and they came to be spoken of as a "rope of sand." It is difficult to realize how provisional everything then was. The Continental Congress, deputed by the states to assume the general control, "raised armies, appointed generals, levied taxes and negotiated foreign loans and treaties." "It had no legally established constituency, but one, in fact, existed, which they did not fail to recognize, and for which they boldly assumed to act." They settled and adjusted the conflicting claims of the different States to the title of the land in the almost unexplored territory of the North-west, and adopted for its government the compact between the original states and 'the people' that were to be (of the new Territory), generally known as the ordinance of 1787. This compact was a very important bit of legislation, consisting of six articles. The first provides for entire religious freedom; the second for trial by jury, the writ of *habeas corpus*, and other important rights; the third for the encouragement of schools and good faith towards the Indians; the fourth places new States which may be created out of the territory, on the same footing as the old thirteen; the fifth authorizes division of the territory into states, to be not more than five nor less than three, each to be admitted when it should contain sixty thousand inhabitants, and the sixth contains the famous "anti-slavery proviso;" that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, in any of the said States, other than in the punishment of crime, of which the party shall have been duly convicted.

Our birth, and struggle for complete national existence, cover a period of thirteen years, and are marked by four great State papers, of which any nation might be justly proud, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Ordinance of 1787, and the Constitution of the United States. They are not all equally admirable. The first and the last greatly transcend the others, and notwithstanding the modern disposition in some quarters to decry and belittle them, each of these two is in its turn a document of rare and unequalled excellence, and they severally mark in this great struggle the beginning, with the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776,



and the ending, with the adoption of the Constitution and the inauguration of Washington as first President, April 30, 1789. We celebrated the Centennial of our national life July 4, 1876; but not till April 30, 1889, shall we have completed a century of national constitutional government.

#### THE SECOND WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Almost immediately after the close of our Revolutionary war, the infant republic began to feel the heavy hand of the Algerine pirate, and before the expiration of the thirteen years of our birth-struggle the oppressive acts of Great Britain entirely overshadowed in the enormity of their offence and outrage those acts of 1774-5 which had called forth the declaration of the first war for independence, and by force of these events two wars were thrust upon the young nation, to secure to her real use those blessings to which she had so boldly asserted her "inalienable right." The contest with the Algerines was rendered glorious by the bravery of the gallant Decatur, and the United States has properly the credit of having initiated the deliverance of the Mediterranean from the tyranny of those pirates. Our last war with Great Britain was as truly a war of independence as was the first. That proud and arrogant "Mistress of the Seas" had, for the purpose of keeping up and recruiting her navy, allowed her press-gangs in the streets of London, and in the other English cities, to seize American citizens, and carry them on-board her vessels and compel them to serve as common sailors; and this had been continued, in spite of our remonstrances, till the number of Americans so captured and enlisted in British service was officially reported to be between four and five thousand. It was not till the pride of the nation was touched by the boarding and search of the "Chesapeake," under the orders of a British admiral in a British frigate, that we could be nerved to a declaration of war; but when once commenced the war was prosecuted with vigor. Our seamen proved able to cope successfully with the veterans of the English navy, and we established, as the result of some bold and successful sea-fights, our full independence of British interference upon the sea, as well as upon the land. Its direct effect did not extend far inland; but some of the families of Lee, who had emigrated to Ohio and settled near the shores of Lake Erie, had packed their household goods, and made themselves ready for instant removal, if the issue of the famous battle of September 10, had not resulted in the "Victory of Lake Erie" for our sailors and soldiers under Commodore Perry.

## MASSACHUSETTS NOT EAGER FOR THE FRAY.

In the war of 1812, the patriotism of the men of Massachusetts did not reach fever heat. The enslaving of our fellow-citizens by British tyranny did not affect our pockets unfavorably, and the destruction of our infant commerce surely would; and the bringing of war ships upon the growing sea-port city of Boston was undesirable. Gov. Strong refused to allow the militia of Massachusetts to be marched out of the State for national defense or protection, and the fourteen men drafted from Lee, who joined a company of which the late John Nye was captain, did no heavier or more dangerous duty than to pass from dinner to drill, during six weeks of monotonous service in the Boston barracks and upon the parade ground.

## THE OLD TRAINING DAYS.

The militia service, and the days of "general training," for some years after the Revolution, were matters of personal pride and pleasure, and a vigorous rivalry was kept up in Lee, between the North company of 112, and the South company of 113 men. The parade ground was the then open field north of the meeting-house, the Barna Adams lot. The men were refreshed with pails full of liquor, furnished at the expense of the officers, and the offices being sought as a means of political preferment, such abuses soon crept in as brought the whole system into disrepute. The trainings became occasions for drunkenness and buffoonery, and the whole business became so distasteful that all who could do so, evaded the duty. It is believed that the last muster in the neighborhood of Lee was held at Stockbridge in 1830. On that occasion, the North Lee company was commanded by Capt. Thomas E. M. Bradley, with Seth D. Graves as lieutenant. South Lee trained under Zach Winegar, who, being detailed that day to act as major, deputed Lieut. Henry Smith to act as captain, who was assisted by Sergeant Harrison Garfield and by Corporal Barnabas Hinckley, while William P. Hamblin was lieutenant of a cavalry company.

## THE FIRST CHURCH AND ITS CONFESSION OF FAITH.

The First Church and parish in Lee were co-existent in action and in territory with the town, and may properly find mention here. It was on May 25, 1780, that the professors of religion in Lee, being about thirty in number, assembled, and, with the aid of Rev. Daniel Collins of Lanesboro, were organized into a church. As the basis of their union, they adopted a Confession of Faith which, with the ex-

punging of the single word "unpromised" from the eleventh article, is acknowledged by their successors in the same church to-day. It included those statements of belief which were even then called "the hard doctrines," and stated with the usual fullness and amplification, that man is born, according to God's holy and wise constitution, "in a state of sin and guilt;" that he is "wholly corrupt and an enemy to God and the Gospel;" that he will not be sinless until brought to a perfect obedience to God's law, which none attain to in this life, but are sinfully defective in all their holy exercises and actions;" that "as all the promises of the Gospel are made to truly holy exercises, and none but such; none can have any evidence of their interest in Christ, but by a consciousness of their own holy exercises, and by coming to a certain knowledge of these, as they may, they can obtain an assurance of their salvation." It also asserts in the clearest manner the sovereignty of God, as "having mercy on whom He will have mercy; and leaving whom He will to blindness and hardness."

This was then the only church in Lee, and it is not surprising that Dr. Alvan Hyde in his Centennial Discourse (preached December 22, 1820,) should have had occasion to speak of the former disputes of the people on what were called the "hard doctrines," and of many who had taken "their stand in opposition to the church and the distinguishing doctrines of grace." Nor will it seem surprising to most persons at the present day that there should have been difficulty in settling a minister. Referring again to Dr. Hyde's Centennial Discourse, we find that on the 8th of June, 1780, the council called to ordain and install Mr. Abram Fowler, moved by a remonstrance in which many of the town united, declined to ordain him. It was more than three years afterwards, July 3, 1783, that a council was again called for the purpose of ordaining Mr. Elisha Parmelee, to whom there was similar opposition; but as Mr. Parmelee consented to be ordained, the council proceeded "to set him apart to the work of the ministry in this place." He is spoken of by Dr. Alvan Hyde as "sound in the faith, amiable in disposition, distinguished for his talents and acquirements, and eminent for his piety," but his health almost immediately failed, and he died in 1784, while journeying in Virginia.

#### AN EIGHT YEARS' EFFORT TO GET A MINISTER.

We cannot desire a better photograph of the condition of this small but earnest community as to their spiritual state, than again to recur to the language of Dr. Alvan Hyde, who says that the church, "though small, was happily united; but the town was in a very

divided state." "Attempts were made for eight years to settle a minister without success; in which many candidates were employed." "Whenever the church could unite in giving one a call to be their teacher and spiritual guide, a formidable opposition would arise in the town and disappoint their hopes." Finally, after eight years and more of this ineffectual struggle, the church and people became happily united in the settlement of Alvan Hyde, then a young and earnest minister, whose qualifications and fitness for the work no one but himself ever questioned. His own sense of the greatness of the responsibility, and of his personal weakness, and the earnestness with which he sought help from the highest source, are shown in a letter to his father, written by him the day before his ordination, in which, after stating the terms of his settlement, he adds:

"But my thoughts are more employed about the greatness of the work in which I am about to engage, than the manner in which I shall be supported. The work of the ministry appears greater and greater to me. I am sometimes almost ready to sink under it, and so cry, 'Who is sufficient for these things?' but these words, 'My grace is sufficient for thee,' are sometimes comforting. The burden on my mind at the present time is very great. To-morrow is appointed for my ordination, and I have solemn and affecting scenes before me. It is a great thing to take the pastoral office over a church, and to be set as a watchman. I need the prayers of all God's people. I hope you, sir, will remember me at the Throne of Grace."

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRST MINISTER.

Mr. Hyde was a remarkable man. Without genius and without uncommon talents, he, nevertheless, united and combined those qualities, acquirements and capacities which constitute the truest greatness. He was earnest and pertinacious in purposes, and was at all times pervaded with a sense of the greatness of the work which rested upon him, and was overshadowed in all his life by a consciousness of the presence and power of God. For many years he was the central figure of this town, as well as the shepherd of his particular flock. Everything which affected his people affected him, and no man was, more than he, careful and conscientious in the discharge of every duty. All the schools in the town were under his constant supervision, and he visited each of the Summer and Winter schools near their commencement and near the close, making four annual visits to the school of each district in the town; and it is the witness of some who remember those visits, that he always left "a salutary and enduring influence behind him." It was not till 1814, that a committee



was appointed to co-operate with him in this work. His activity was constant and unvarying from the beginning to the end of his long ministry, and the results attest its high and continual faithfulness. The year of his settlement (1792) was the year in which commenced "that series of revivals in America," of which Dr. Griffin said in 1828: "It has never been interrupted, night or day, and never will be until the earth is full of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Dr. Hyde had part in two revivals that year, and it is probable that the first of those two was the earliest of the series. In 1828, when he had been settled thirty-six years, he had occasion to take a retrospect of his ministry and its results; six hundred and twenty-four of his flock had died, of whom forty-six had passed eighty years: he had received of members six hundred and thirty-four, and the number of communicants at that time was about three hundred and fifty-five.

Dr. Hyde was an educated and conservative man, but was not bigoted in any narrow or bad sense. Writing of him, soon after his death, his biographer says: "Perhaps it is an act of justice to the memory of a man whose theological tenets have been much spoken against, to say that the Articles of Faith in the church in Lee were drawn up by Dr. Hopkins;" but if the biographer could have foreknown that they would have remained unchanged for more than forty years, and be to-day the statement of faith and belief of the First Congregational Church of Lee, which is certainly one of the most intelligent churches in Berkshire county, he would, perhaps, have deemed such apology unnecessary.

Dr. Hyde did not fear fair and candid discussion. He was too fully convinced of the absolute verity of the doctrines which he believed and preached to fear to talk of them; and in 1794 (two years after his settlement), he writes to a fellow-clergyman: "Our difference of opinion on some doctrinal points, is so far from giving birth to the least desire in me to drop the correspondence that it is a real motive in my mind for its continuance. From a man of reading and thought, who differs from me, I shall be more likely to receive benefit than from one who walks exactly in my path." It goes far to nullify criticism of his doctrines in reference to points and propositions, before which human wisdom becomes weakness and folly, and as to which he is perhaps the wisest man and truest disciple who has come to a dawning consciousness of his ignorance and incapacity, to remember that, in a parish containing less than two thousand inhabitants, his church embraced during many years near four hundred members, and that during a ministry of about forty years, he admitted to his church



about seven hundred communicants, who, as also their descendants, became and remain a sober, temperate, self-restrained people, loving and standing by good order and obedience to law; conservative and yet progressing, having a steadfastness which may be relied on, and a will of their own, and never having parted with practical wisdom and common sense, nor from the religion of common honesty and payment of debts. The secret of his great usefulness lay in his devoted and earnest piety, in his good sense, exact method, punctuality and diligence; all of which he constantly cultivated, by the reading of the word, by prayer, and by labor for the good of others, so that in all the relations he sustained, his life-work tended continually to elevate, to purify and to bless. He aided in gathering one of the first Sunday-schools, and in 1831, more than four hundred youth and children were present on one occasion, who were connected with the school.

#### THE GOOD MAN'S TROUBLES IN HIS LAST DAYS.

The death of Dr. Hyde came in good time for his comfort; for the course of events during the last few years of his life was an increasing annoyance to him. He was specially opposed to some of the means then made use of "to awaken interest in the churches." In 1828, he says in a letter to a friend: "A faithful, praying, exemplary minister is clothed with salvation; his best aid at all times, is a praying and active church. The plan of sending out evangelists as revival men when there are settled pastors, is no part of the wisdom which is from above, it comes from a bad source." Again, the next year, he says: "The flood-gates are now open, and the desolating evils which I have long expected, are beginning to be realized;" and yet again in 1830: "I notice with much trembling the progress of error in this land and in the churches of New England. The New Haven scheme of theology is a broad step-stone to Arminianism. The doctrines of sovereign grace are more and more discarded." And in 1828 he says: "To gather converts into the church has been a great work, far greater than after any former revival, especially to lead them to acquiesce in that part of the Confession of Faith adopted by the church which makes the sinner wholly dependent on the sovereign mercy of God."

#### SOCIETY SIXTY YEARS AGO.

Social life in Lee, during the earlier days of Dr. Hyde, was rather simple and primitive. The children of those days made a good supper and breakfast of mush and milk; pork and beans and boiled beef and cabbage were the principal dishes in the farmer's family, while ham and eggs, hulled corn and johnny cake were occasional delicacies.

The Bible and the almanac and one or two standard volumes of English literature were the common library, to which was added in some families, as the years passed on, the weekly newspaper, and sometimes, though rarely, a magazine. The daily newspaper was not in the early part of Dr. Hyde's ministry, known in this small town, but the news was gathered at the store, or the "Red Lion," and few who have any memory of the coarse or gossiping talk—of the well worn stories, and the rough practical jokes which frequently preceded and followed the flip or egg nogg—would care to exchange our present habits of social life for those of that earlier day. The tailoress and dressmaker and shoemaker went round from house to house, to assist the family in making the changes and preparations from Fall to Winter and from Winter to Spring. The common method of traveling was upon horseback, the women riding upon side-saddles or upon pillions, during the first half of Dr. Hyde's ministry. The people being of social nature, lost no opportunity for pleasant talk, and going to meeting, for a family who had been shut in to themselves all the week, was prized for its opportunities of social intercourse by all, and probably by some who cared little for its devotional opportunities. Toddy and flip were the common beverages, and pipes and liquor were always furnished at the meetings of the ministers of the county at Dr. Hyde's. Dr. Gale tells us that in the erection of the meeting-house which preceded this one, Elisha Crocker is credited with one barrel of rum, \$40.00, and Seth Backus, by attending three carpenters' meetings; and expending for liquor each time seventy-five cents. Even after a change was brought about, it is said that some people could never believe that Dr. Hyde's voice was quite so sonorous and musical as before he gave up taking a little Jamaica before he went into the pulpit.

#### TOWN REGULATION OF CHURCH SUPPORT.

The town meeting in New England has always been a source of business training and special education. The subjects for discussion and disposal were broad and various, and in Lee, till 1830, they embraced the regulation of ecclesiastical as well as lay affairs; even the hours of public religious worship being settled in town meetings. At the April meeting in 1806, the town voted to reject a proposition that there should be but one preaching service through the ensuing Winter, and a town committee was appointed to wait on Dr. Hyde "to see if it will be agreeable with him to have the intermission one hour, through the ensuing year." The tax for support of worship was then territorial and embraced all residing within the parish, unless they

had certificate of membership in some other society, and contributed to the support of the gospel in that "order." In 1820, there was an article in the warrant, "to see if the town will determine whether non-resident proprietors of land who do not lodge such certificates with the town clerk, shall be exempt from being taxed for the support of the Gospel."

#### THE TOWN MEETING ORATORS.

The town meetings afforded an excellent opportunity for development in knowledge of general business, in the elementary rules which govern parliamentary bodies, and in the art of public speech. From the drafting of the warrant with its brief and orderly setting forth in distinct articles of each separate matter to be considered, down through all the business to its final ends, it is, in many respects, one of the best possible schools for the training of men for public work, leadership and influence. At these meetings in Lee, I remember well in my younger days, the quiet and logical manner in which, as a well-disciplined lawyer and logician, Mr. Porter was accustomed to state his views; Mr. Tremain of South Lee was one of the best of the debaters; the committee reports of Walter Laflin were good specimens of minute accuracy of detail; and there were many men, of capacity much above the average, who used to figure in the business and speech of those meetings, some of which (held till 1836 in the audience room of the Congregational church) were long and stormy, ran far into the evening, and sometimes continued and closed with rude and boisterous uproar. Clear above all, I seem to hear the trumpet tones of the clear, ringing voice of the late Samuel A. Hulbert, as (generally in the stormiest moments of the wordy war) he stated his opinion and with a zeal which sometimes amounted to vehement and stormy eloquence, urged his views upon his fellow-townsmen. I have heard bursts of eloquence in town and society meetings from Mr. Hulbert, which in magnetic power and force, were not inferior to the best efforts of the greatest of the many eloquent men whose public speech it has been my occasional good fortune to hear. Among the men of Lee whom I have known, Mr. Hulbert had the most dominant personality, and was the most liberally freighted with brain and heart and force of will and vehemency of nature. He was at all times and everywhere, a power in whatever direction he gave himself with a will, and, with the training which Dr. Hyde and Mr. Porter had enjoyed, would have filled a large place outside of and beyond the comparatively narrow circle in which he was known here.

## PAPER MILLS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The earliest mills in Lee, as in other new settlements, were saw and grist mills. There were also powder mills and a fulling mill at an early day. The powder mills frequently blew up, and the one in the Center was abandoned by Laffin, Loomis & Co., after the disastrous explosion of 1824; the one on "Powder Mill brook" at South Lee has since been abandoned. Ball, Bassett & Co.'s woolen factory in North Lee, and one in South Lee, at one time did considerable business, but both have been superseded by other mills. The Bassetts (Thomas and Cornelius), and before them, Fenner Foote and Chapman, and Leishman, used to get out chair stuffs, and send away \$8,000 to \$12,000 a year. Paper, for many years the leading manufacture of Lee, was started where Owen & Hulbert's mills were afterwards located at South Lee, in the early years of this century, by Samuel Church, who came to Lee from East Hartford. Mr. Church afterwards built a mill near where the Eagle Mills now stand. This business increased rapidly, and in 1851 there were twenty-five paper mills in Lee, with an annual product of nearly \$2,000,000. W. & W. C. Laffin built where the Housatonic Mill now stands, a mill, which, in its day, was deemed a marvel of extent and capacity. The mills of Owen & Hurlbut at South Lee, of the Mays (formerly Ingersoll & May), of Benton & Garfield, of Ives, Sturgis & Co., of Phelps & Field, and of Whyte & Hulbert, and other mills still owned and managed by well-known and honored citizens; the long-continued and well-managed carriage manufactory of S. & A. Hulbert, the cotton factory of Beach & Royce, and the machine shop of Tanner & Perkins, are all too fresh in memory, or in observation, to need more than a mere mention here. Full statements as to all of these, will be found in the historical notes. No business in Lee has probably ever been conducted with the vigor, enterprise and energy which result in the twenty tons a day of paper, that can now be produced by the Smith Paper Company; but our smaller mills, our stores and banks of discount and of saving, have been generally prudently and energetically conducted, and some of them have been models of prudent management and fair and honorable dealings and results.

## LOCAL POSSIBILITIES FOR THE NEXT CENTURY.

Another Centennial will undoubtedly find some changes of which we do not now dream; but without disturbing our present self-complacency, we may hope to see the general prosperity considerably increased, and showing itself in many more of the beautiful homes, which in some respects are models of taste and of comfort; with addi-



tional evidence, in well-selected and well-worn libraries, of that increased intelligence which should wait upon added wealth and leisure; with memorial hall filled with curiosities and mementoes; with some tasteful works of art in sculpture, and in painting, and with maps and charts and an increased number of well selected books. The roads and bridges in all your valleys and over your beautiful hills, we may hope will all be as well hardened, as some specimens of your best roads now are; and let us hope that your beautiful "Fern Cliff" will have been secured as a place of pleasant resort, to which all shall have a right to go, and its enjoyment not be dependent on the kindness of any single citizen.

Your schools have progressed from the smallest beginnings in teaching and a maximum quantity of flogging, to a government by moral influence and a teaching which fits a young man for college; your school houses from mere barn-like places of shelter, with little warmth in Winter and abundant heat in Summer, have been transformed to rather comfortable buildings, but neither are in all respects and in all parts of your town up to your ideal; nor are they quite all they should be, in a wealthy and prosperous community, and when exceptional and excessive taxes for other and more questionable purposes, shall have been wiped out and forgotten, (and perhaps before,) we ought to, and therefore probably shall see, further progress in that always safe direction, in preparation for the next Centennial.

#### PROGRESS IN PEACE.

When we extend our vision beyond our own narrow bounds, and behold the universal progress, we see that Lee has no more than kept step to the music of the universal procession, which bears along our town, our country, and the world. Progress during the last century has been universal and rapid. In agriculture the plow, the hoe, the scythe and the sickle, are still used, but greatly as they are improved from those used by our grandfathers, they are quite eclipsed by the reaper, the mower, the planter and the thresher, even as the wheat fields of 30,000 and 50,000 acres, owned by a single proprietor, eclipse the narrow strips of the golden grain, which a century since were scattered among the girdled trees or blackened stumps of the New England farmers' wheat fields.

#### PROGRESS IN WAR.

In war, the old shot gun of the Revolution, which in time of war was all too slow, and in time of peace:

"Though well aimed at duck or plover,  
Steered wide and kicked it's owner over,"



has been superseded by the revolver, the breech-loading rifle, and the needle gun: while the old-time cannon (well imitated by Mother Perry's yarn beam) has given place to the rifled cannon; and the *Mitrailleuse*, the huge columbiad, the improved torpedo, and other ingeniously and fearfully terrible weapons, improvements in which, we may hope, will, before our next Centennial, render war impossible by securing the certain annihilation of both hostile parties, whenever it is attempted. We need not multiply illustrations from telegraphy, from steamboats, railroads and locomotives, from improved printing presses and bank locks, of this universal progress.

#### PROGRESS IN USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Our nation has had its full share in it all, and, more than any other, has compelled genius and science to adapt themselves to the practical uses of man. The telegraph was used as a plaything for the amusement of princes and nobles in Spain, doing small duty in a circuit of 300 feet, three centuries ago, but it was reserved for our Morse to invent and give to mankind an instrument which binds the earth in electric net-work by which distant seas are crossed and continents bound together; by which war in all its details, is directed from the office of the strategist, by which distant diplomacies are regulated and the commerce of the world is kept in perfect and instantaneous communication. Shakespeare's Puck would girdle the earth in forty minutes, but the poetic inspiration of Shakespeare has been distanced in real life, by the splendid achievements of the telegraph, and "every electric click, that flashes upon the thousand wires its messages over the land and under the seas all round the globe, proclaims to all peoples, and shall perpetuate the memory of Morse."

Egypt knew of, and in certain limited ways, employed the steam engine, fifteen centuries ago; but it was reserved for our own Fulton to make it useful on the seas and by it,—almost to annihilate distance; while our English-speaking brother, was at the same time, harnessing it to the iron horse, and compelling it to perform like duty on the land.

#### THESE TIMES BETTER THAN THE OLD TIMES.

With this wide-spread and manifest progress in that which diminishes human labor, and facilitates in countless ways the increase of wealth and of seeming prosperity, has there been concurrent advancement in the highest type of civilization, refinement, religion and higher education? Are the people more virtuous and more intelligent? I answer, unhesitatingly, Yes. Beginning with the average household, compare it with that of a hundred years ago. Who doubts

that it is wiser, broader, purer and more intelligent? The material for thought, has grown silently, and sometimes without appreciation. There is in the average home less whisky and more books and newspapers and journals and chromos and engravings, all of which are silent workers toward the higher life. Instead of spending the evening at the tavern or the store, the average American of to-day is probably reading what was done last week or yesterday, in Turkey or some other center of present thought or interest.

#### THE NATIONS HERE UNITED.

There has never before been such a gathering together and admixture of the races of the earth as in our country, and while this has its dangers for the future and its inconveniences in the present, the augmentation of freedom, of breadth, of human charity and of the highest and best philanthropy, is great beyond our computation. I well remember that in my boyhood one of the chief prayers of the church at all missionary meetings of concert for prayer was that God would "open wide and effectual doors," by which our teachers of Christianity might go in and enlighten the dark places of the earth. How has God answered these prayers? Has he not sent of the men of all these divers nations to our doors that we may find, ever ready to our hand, the highest and best work waiting to be done? How shall we receive the Mongolian? Surely, unless we would turn the clock of the centuries backward, as we have received the other nations of Caucasian race, and in these last days the African.

#### AMERICA FORETOLD OF OLD.

Is not ours the land which Ezekiel saw in vision? "Between two seas—whose people were gathered out of the nations of the earth—the land where the stranger hath an inheritance; the land of unwalled towns and villages—the land of broad rivers and streams," and whose people Jeremiah represents as "gathering themselves together and appointing to themselves one head; a people whose nobles shall be of themselves and whose governors shall proceed from the midst of them?" Thus has God gathered this people of whom he spake aforetime by his prophets, in this "glorious land which blooms between the seas," from the northern borders of it, where God's perpetual bow of peace glorifies Niagara's cliffs, to the sea-girt southern line, where God's gifts make the earth almost an Eden of fragrance and beauty, and from the rock-bound Atlantic, where the eastern song of the sea begins its morning music, to the far off Pacific, where the western waters murmur their benedictions to our land, as the tide goes out through the

Golden Gate beneath the setting sun : here for an hundred years, has this nation, holding in trust the largest hopes for freedom and humanity, endured and prospered. From an area of less than one million square miles, we have increased our territory to nearly four millions, and from 3,000,000 of people we have increased by our own growth and our ingathering from the nations, till we are more than 40,000,000.

#### A GENUINE SOCIAL PROGRESS.

In all this material increase the moral and intellectual growth of our town and of our nation has not lagged behind, and whatever may be said of creeds and of man-made formulas of faith, there has never been in this country so much of practical Christianity as there is to-day; never so high a sense of man's stewardship in the disposal of his wealth (notwithstanding occasional and notorious exceptions); never so high a recognition of the rights and dignity of labor; never was man as man and woman as woman of such worth as to-day. In all our history, there has not been a period when the brain of the whole people has teemed with such fertility as in the last twenty-five years. As it has been in Lee, so has it been (perhaps in higher average, for you are a conservative people) throughout our country. The brain and moral nature of the people have been subsoiled by anti-slavery and temperance discussions; by discussions of human rights and the powers of the government; and by the red-hot ploughshare of civil war, which, driven by steam and the telegraph, has furrowed our land in all its length and breadth, burning out by its terrible fires, the mortal leprosy of slavery, and educating the people to a higher patriotism, and creating a nation in which central power may be harmonized with local independence; and the largest personal liberty may co-exist with perfect submission to imperative and controlling law. We have come forth from the terrible contest, our flag still floating in its beauty, with no star erased, and our good ship of state is floating upon the bosom of a new century.

#### CONCLUSION.

And now, God of our Fathers, if darkness and the tempest are still before us, give us honest and fearless pilots who can weather the storm, and when kings and emperors and their crowns and scepters shall have passed away, or shall be retained (as now in our mother-land), only as the convenient and time-honored forms and pageantries, by which the peoples of the earth shall conduct their public national affairs, grant that our republic may still endure, purified and lifted to higher life by the buffetings of adversity, strengthened by time, and

by the reverent affection of a grateful and united nation, loving and exemplifying liberty under law ; and may the dear old flag still wave on land and on sea, fit emblem of a people, who by the example of a regulated, rational and enduring constitutional liberty, shall have earned yet higher right to be represented by admiring Frenchmen in the harbor of New York, by the statue about to be erected of "Liberty enlightening the world."

" As it floated long before us,  
Be it ever floating o'er us,  
O'er our land from shore to shore ;  
There are freemen yet to wave it,  
Millions who would die to save it,  
Wave it, save it, ever more."

Mr. Chamberlin held the large audience in close attention during the delivery of his long address, and at its close the band played an exquisitely rendered piece.

William Pitt Palmer, Esq., of New York, the poet of the day, was next introduced as Lee-born but Stockbridge-bred. Mr. Palmer prefaced the reading of his poem with the following remarks.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

When the Continental March of sylvan destruction, which began at Plymouth in 1620, reached this far inland valley, it must have presented a scene unsurpassed for beauty in the whole Temperate Zone. It was formed on just the right scale to satisfy the taste of a lover of nature, to whom the sublime in scenery is not an indispensable requisite to its perfect enjoyment. If to the simple inhabitants, the leafy world around them ever suggested any artificial change in its conformation, they were destitute of all mechanical appliances for effecting it. The landscape, therefore, remained, year after year, just as it had existed for untold ages. Spring and Summer draped it, as of old, in their green mantle ; Autumn, in vesture more gorgeous than ever adorned the tiring-chamber of Kings ; and Winter folded in its gracious ermine the feeble life in death, so soon to rejoice in another vernal resurrection. From lateral ridge to ridge, all was one unbroken forest, save where the benignant river had blessed its dusky children with treeless intervalles, to which even their impotence of the proper instrumental means, could give the semblance of agricultural life.



Into this primitive solitude, came our hardy ancestors some seven score years ago, bringing with them the wants and habits of civilized society; and if perchance they also brought a taste for natural beauty, it must have been smothered or quite extinguished, by the hard necessities of their surroundings. For, to the pioneer, bread is the staff of life also and most especially, and to win it from the wilderness, his axe must first dispel its "boundless contiguity of shade," and let rain and sunshine find free access to the dark, dank soil, never yet glorified by the golden footprints of Ceres. So the primitive beauty of the Berkshire Hills had to give place to the stern necessities of the sturdy pioneers, who established in the heart of the Housatonic Valley the famous Indian Mission, of which Old Stockbridge became the central point.

In the verses I shall have the honor to read, I have sought to sketch merely the three local aspects above indicated—the aboriginal sylvan beauty; the blotches and blemishes, the rawness, roughness, and general disfigurement of what I venture to call the Stump Age; and lastly, the loveliness that now smiles upon us from every side, as if our Alma Mater were complacently conscious of her peerless charms. How much these may be heightened, and what new ones added, during the lapse of another century of continued improvement under the fostering care of "Laurel Hill," "Fern Cliff," and like associations throughout the County, the eye of imagination only can now dimly discern. When village, and hamlet, and isolated farm-house, shall all have been touched by the wand of refined taste, our Berkshire will be so charming, that the mere thought of its beauty makes one feel that he was born too soon, and wish, with Franklin, that he might be permitted to revisit his native land, after each hundred years' slumber in her maternal bosom.

### MR. PALMER'S POEM.

#### THE MODEL VALE.

Kind friends, if idle fame has raised  
The pleasing expectation,  
That rhymes of mine were like to lend  
One charm to this occasion;  
Pray do not blame the simple bard  
For his compliant ditty,  
But charge the disappointment all  
To your insane Committee!



They feared no lack of racy "*prose*,"  
Both joyous and pathetic ;  
But even *that* would please the more,  
If pranked with foil poetic ;  
And, therefore, have I greatly dared  
To face your focal glances,  
While my decrepit lyre intones  
A tale of rhythmic fancies :—

The scene was Nature's model vale,  
Where, after long reflection,  
Like Zeuxis, she had grouped and posed  
Each borrowed charm's perfection—  
The fairest hills, the gayest meads,  
The clearest lakes and fountains—  
And set the living picture in  
A frame of graceful mountains.

But sons of that first woeful pair  
Who brought the curse of toiling,  
Descried the wonder, and began  
Their round of Eden-spoiling ;  
They felled the warbling groves, and gashed  
The mountain's sylvan towers ;  
And with the mattock, scythe and share,  
Laid low the friendless flowers.

The Wood-nymphs and the Oreads, shocked  
At such dire desecration,  
Caught up their blackened skirts and fled  
Their ancient habitation ;  
And left the spoilers to pursue  
Their chopping and their charring—  
Complete, in short, their perfect work  
Of universal marring !

But, by and by, when things were grown  
Almost beyond enduring ;  
And Nature's wounds seemed past all hope  
Of stanching, much less, curing ;  
There came a Fairy to the Vale,  
Of most enchanting presence,  
And softly stole a gracious spell  
Upon the artless peasants.

Her smile was like the purple sheen  
That plays on lake and river,  
When laughing ripples glance the shafts  
From Morning's rosy quiver ;  
Her voice as sweet as sweetest harp's,  
The Summer wind just kisses ;  
And witching as the lays that charmed  
The comrades of Ulysses.

She taught them that the moiling swain  
May find sufficient leisure  
To nurse a sense of outward grace  
To thrill with inward pleasure ;  
And, that in all the walks of life,  
It is our bounden duty,  
So far as in us lies, to veil  
A blemish with a beauty.

They heard and heeded well the words  
That clearest truth reflected,  
Whose simple logic rarely fails  
To make her laws respected ;  
And soon the outraged vale began  
To show a smart improvement ;  
For manly vigor followed up,  
As woman led the movement.

To blots and blemishes anon  
The change proved comi-tragic—  
Old eye-sores vanished from the scene,  
As if by force of magic ;  
The barn no longer with the home  
Stood elbowing for precedence ;  
But meekly showed its sense of right,  
By complaisant recedence.

The stable stole behind the barn,  
Remoter still, the swine-yard ;  
The door-yard spurned its farther use  
Of chopping-place and kine-yard :  
While cart, sled, buggy, kennel, coop,  
Decorum's hardened scorers,  
Turned tail, and hid themselves away  
In proper holes and corners.

At last the Old House rubbed its eyes,  
And blushed to see how shabby  
It needs must look in gabardine  
So threadbare, torn, and drabby ;  
And thereupon it set to work  
With earnest perseverance,  
Like tattered beau resolved to show  
A downright spruce appearance.

Old clapboard lesions straight were healed,  
Old shingles sloughed their mosses ;  
New panes, instead of scarecrow hats,  
Made good the window's losses ;  
And where the sun's rude eye till then,  
Had glared it's bold intrusion,  
Green blinds their welcome shadows drop  
Upon the dear seclusion.

And vines were planted by the door,  
The woodbine or clematis,  
To curtain in the rustic porch  
And drape the airy lattice ;  
And trees of graceful form and leaf  
Soon waved along all highways,  
And sent their verdant juniors forth  
To farthest lanes and by-ways :

So well, that e'en at highest noon,  
When June's keen solstice blazes,  
And not a Sylph in all the sky  
Her silvery sun shade raises ;  
From end to end of that fair vale,  
Where'er one's promenadings,  
He threads long arbors fresh and cool  
With elm and maple shadings.

Yon stream that makes our native vales  
A rival land of Goshen,  
Erst gathered in its myriad rills  
And bore them back to ocean,  
*Unused* in all its willowy course  
By groves of pines and beeches,  
Save where the Indian's birch canoe  
Went idling down the reaches.

But *now*, where near-confronting hills  
Oppose their jutting shoulders,  
Or rended crags have lined the shore  
With dam-inviting boulders ;  
Behold, the valemén's cunning hands,  
The struggling Samson binding,  
Bend his blind strength to countless tasks  
Of spinning, forging, grinding.

And what a nobler triumph still,  
When from the full-urned mountains  
They won for garden, park and lawn,  
The flash and plash of fountains ;  
And bade the boon, for rich and poor,  
Exhaustlessly upwelling,  
A pure and sure Bethesda bide  
In every village dwelling !

And whereas, erst, no careless soul  
In all those mangled bowers,  
E'er waked to give one kindly thought  
To Eden's exiled flowers ;  
There's scarce a cotter now, but will,  
By dint of harder toiling,  
*Find* time to cherish these dear waifs  
Of Adam's garden spoiling.

Nor has his home parterre engrossed  
His hard earned leisure solely ;  
Fondly he helps to dress the scene  
By kindred dust made holy ;  
Till mid the verdure and the bloom  
That veil life's last dark portal,  
He almost smiles to view the bourne  
Twixt mortal and immortal.

And lo ! how fair the public taste,  
To match the general brightness,  
Has robbed the village church near by,  
In stole of saintly whiteness,  
Which, thus arrayed, may well beseech  
To eyes of pensive weepers,  
The earthly tent of angels sent  
To guard the silent sleepers—







RESIDENCE OF WELLINGTON SMITH.

Thus Grace and Dryad came again,  
And with them came the Muses,  
Whose blessed office is to teach  
That life's true aims and uses,  
Are not best shown in heaping gold,  
Or multiplying acres,  
Nor lending sacrilegious hands  
To Beauty's image-breakers,

But in the culture of the mind,  
The soul's divine emotions,  
Love, faith, peace, sympathy with all  
Heroic self-devotions ;  
With reverence for genuine worth,  
No matter what the station  
Of him who lifts a human heart  
To angel aspiration.

And just as nature's face improved,  
Improved her votaries faces,  
Grown faithful mirrors to reflect  
Her humanizing graces ;  
While gentle manners so prevail,  
They force the fond conviction,  
That *here*, at least, the Golden Age  
Is no poetic fiction !

#### CONCLUDING EXERCISES IN THE CHURCH.

At the conclusion of Mr. Palmer's poem, the audience were invited to unite with the choir in singing "America," which was rendered with a will. Mr. Wellington Smith, the marshal of the day, then announced the order of procession to the dining tent, and the assembly was dismissed with the benediction pronounced by Rev. Lyman S. Rowland, of Lee. So complete were the arrangements of the marshal and his assistants, that there was no hitch in transferring the large assembly from the church to the tent. Six hundred and seventy-six guests were seated at the well-spread board of Messrs. Hall & Whipple, and were waited upon by seventy of the young ladies and

gentlemen of Lee, who, with their festive regimentals and polite attentions, added grace to the occasion and honor to the town.

#### AT AND AFTER THE DINNER.

After the well-filled tables had been pretty thoroughly cleared, and the company put in good humor for the intellectual feast, President Garfield introduced the speaking with a few well-chosen words. The responses were nearly all made to formal sentiments, the first of which was as follows :

The United States—May her influence among the nations be equal to her domain ; may her sons remember that righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

To respond to this, Senator Henry L. Dawes of Pittsfield was called upon. He briefly alluded to the growth of the city during the past hundred years, to its vast increase in territory and population, and laid the foundation of this unparalleled development in the "town organization" principle. The town meeting is to liberty, what the primary school is to science. So far as the growth of the city has outstripped the township, it cannot but give alarm to every sincere and candid patriot. "I hope for one," said the speaker, "there will never be another city in the commonwealth." Then turning to national affairs, he spoke of the necessity of reconciling and uniting the lately conflicting sections of our common country. In our republic there is no room for conquered states. The demand of the hour is for another great character in history. As Washington was the Father, Lincoln the Preserver, and Grant the Defender of the country, so now another is needed who shall combine all these elements with Reconciliation. When such a one comes, over his head will be written the grand title, "Pacifiator of States."

Massachusetts, by birth or adoption our venerable and respected mother—We cherish her memory with heartfelt regard. May she never be disgraced by those of her sons whom she has delighted to honor.

To this Richard Goodman of Lenox responded, in a bright little speech, saying that whoever spoke for Massachusetts ought to be a descendant of the "May Flower." Unhappily, the Goodman who came over in that vessel, and who ought to have been his progenitor was eaten by bears while a bachelor, so that he himself was only an adopted son. While Massachusetts was a good mother, she was also an excellent mother-in-law.

The County of Berkshire—May the morals of her sons and daughters be as pure as her mountain streams, their aspirations as lofty as her hill-tops; their integrity as immutable as her rocks. May her public men, her clergy, her lawyers, her physicians, emulate the bright examples that have gone before.

Gen. William C. Plunkett of Adams, responded in a speech full of pleasant reminiscence of the early days of the county when factories were unknown, and linsey-woolsey was the common wear. He spoke of the great progress the county had made in manufacturing, and of the advance in education as well. Of Williams college in particular he spoke highly. Fewer men, he said, grow up, vegetate and die at this college than at any other of the United States. Gen. Plunkett told several stories of Dr. Hyde and of the early worthies of Lee, and in closing spoke of the "Berkshire Jubilee" in 1844, inviting all present to attend its repetition sixty-seven years hence.

The next sentiment was a volunteer one, offered by Amos G. Hulbert:

The Orator of the Day—Born a gentleman, happily not spoiled in making up; Excelsior his motto. In youth and early manhood a



first-class carriage trimmer, later a safe counselor, an able advocate, an honest lawyer, a genial friend. His wife, the better-half. God bless them both!

Mr. Chamberlain acknowledged the compliment very handsomely, speaking of his early life in Lee, and the assistance he got from his employers, the Hulberts. After graduating at Harvard law school, where he was a class-mate with President Hayes, he tried to get Mr. Dawes to open a law office with him in Springfield. But Dawes didn't go, and so their paths in life had diverged. He told several capital stories, and left his hearers wishing for more when he sat down.

#### The Town of Lee.

Alexander Hyde, introduced as a gentleman who had energy enough to stay in Lee "to strengthen the things that remain," responded that Lee needed no orator to speak her praises. Her sons and daughters assembled to-day are living witnesses of her character. Our chief glory is in the work our churches and schools have done and are doing. He spoke particularly of the High School and the education it afforded to all. He alluded to the late Samuel A. Hulbert, to whom the town was in a great measure indebted for its High School, its Railroad and other public institutions.

The Judiciary—A necessary and indispensable department of our Government. While a praise to all that do well, yet a terror to all of us.

President Garfield, in a few happy words, introduced Congressman Robinson of Chicopee. Mr. Robinson expressed his gratification at being present on such a pleasant occasion. Born at Lexington, he had, in his boyhood days, walked and talked with the men of '75, and the work of the Fathers was therefore of especial interest to him. Massachusetts, he said, was highly favored in the



character of its judges, who were all honorable and upright men. Mr. Robinson's speech was attentively listened to, and he made a very favorable impression on his hearers.

Rev. Dr. E. W. Bentley, of Ellenville, N. Y., was the next speaker. He said that though he was not born in Lee, he knew nothing till he came here. He spoke of the changes time had made since he first knew the town, and of some of the old residents and their peculiarities.

Emigrants from the old Hive.

Rev. Dr. Ingersoll of Brooklyn, in responding spoke of the feelings of the returning emigrants, and how, wherever they went, they never forgot the old home. To them, as well as to those who stay at home, Lee is the center and all the rest is circumference. Dr. Ingersoll was introduced as a great grandson of the second white inhabitant that settled within the limits of this town, long before its incorporation, and of whose descendants, three generations continue here.

Rev. Dr. Edward Taylor, the next speaker, told a lot of funny stories about "Uncle Joe Chadwick," who, to him was "a bigger man than Old Grant," and other old citizens whose names and memory had been recalled. He kept his hearers in a roar of laughter, and made a capital, unreportable speech, which was richly enjoyed.

Our Adopted Fellow Citizens.

To this sentiment, J. W. Ferry of this town made a capital response. He had an advantage, he thought, over the natives of the town, inasmuch as he became a citizen by choice, and they, by accident. He came to Lee more than a score of years ago, and has never been sorry that he stayed here. Nowhere are there better

associations than in America, nowhere better laws or a better chance to help make them. The adopted citizens of the land can be relied on to do all in their power to maintain the republic. In closing, he said he wanted to impress upon all his hearers that the adopted citizens of the United States were determined to maintain the laws and to do in all respects as well as if born on the soil. Mr. Ferry's speech was received with hearty applause.

The author of the following verses, H. S. Babcock, Esq., of Providence, R. I., was prevented by business engagements from being present at the Centennial, and they were read at the dinner table by Prof. E. H. Barlow :

## I.

The god of day leaps from his ruddy bed  
To guide his golden chariot through the sky ;  
His amber locks he crowns with roses red,  
Whose blushes stain the East with crimson dye.  
His watchful eye beholds each woody height,  
Each mountain peak clad in eternal snow,  
Each smiling vale in gladsome verdure dight,  
Each noble river winding still and slow,  
Each spot of earth where beauty reigns a queen  
And rules her subjects with imperious sway,—  
But shows to none more gracious, loving mien,  
Than where we see his favoring smile to-day.

## II.

The purple mountains rise on either hand,  
A frontier guard that ever watchful keeps ;  
A gently flowing stream divides the land,  
On whose green banks the golden sunshine sleeps ;  
Far stretch the level meads whose fruitful soil  
Yields bounteous harvests to the hand of care,  
Rewards the farmer for his lengthened toil,  
Of garnered wealth makes him the worthy heir.  
There rise the hill-sides crowned with noble trees,  
Where oft, too oft, the choppers axe resounds,  
Whose fatal stroke, borne on the tell-tale breeze,  
Makes mournful music mid the sweeter sounds.

And there the busy mill-wheel constant turns,  
The faithful servant of industrious men ;  
The swarthy furnace brightly glowing burns  
And yields a product fit for poet's pen.

## III.

Adown the hill-sides glide the murmuring brooks,  
Whose lapping waters lend a cooling sound  
And teach far better than old musty books  
That all the earth is consecrated ground.  
A siren sings beneath those waters sweet  
In flute-like tones that win the listening ear ;  
The wavelets dancing at your weary feet  
Give back the song in music silvery clear.  
O'er-arching trees afford you grateful shade,  
The merry breeze laughs in their waving boughs,  
The feathered songsters lend their voices' aid,  
At Nature's shrine you pay your heartfelt vows.

## IV.

Your feet now tread the well-kept streets  
Where reigned the silence of the darkling wood ;  
Your eyes behold the thrifty homes of men  
Where once the cruel Indian's wigwam stood ;  
Your ears drink in the music of the forge,  
The rattle of the mill, the engine's scream,  
Where once the savage war-whoop echoed loud,  
The welcome answer to the red man's dream.  
Peace smiles upon this highly favored land,  
And Plenty empties out her bounteous horn,  
Industry lends to each a helping hand.  
And Love and Happiness these homes adorn.

## V.

And this, to-day, is Lee. A hundred years  
Have borne a golden harvest large and fair,  
We reap with smiles what erst was sown in tears,  
In joy the well-eared sheaves we homeward bear.  
And this, to-day, is Lee. A hundred years  
Upon her brow imperial gently rest,  
The fathers long ago, with many tears,  
Were laid to sleep upon her loving breast.

Her sons and daughters live, grow old and die,  
But she knows not the meaning of old age;  
Eternal youth laughs in her glancing eye,  
And scorns Time's direful threats and powerless rage.  
And this, to-day, is Lee. A hundred years  
Our plant has grown in sunshine and in shade,  
To-day we cull the blossom, freed from fears,  
The past secure, the future surely made.  
Let joy prolong this gladsome festal day,  
The crowning blossom of a century past,  
While over all Love sheds his golden ray  
And makes its memory brighten to the last.

Dr. M. M. Frissell of Kingston, N. Y., spoke pleasantly of the great benefit he was to the town during his three months' stay some years ago. He disseminated knowledge among the people, he brought them into communication with distant sections, he helped the manufacturers to large sums of money, he knew he was a public benefactor—for he was deputy postmaster, and all the mail matter of the village passed through his hands. He spoke of the recent celebration at his home, and of how the native Dutchmen had found it necessary to call upon the Yankees to help them through with it.

The following sentiment was then offered by Amos G. Hulbert, who prefaced it by saying: In looking over this interesting audience I see many on whose heads the almond tree has flourished, and to those I offer the following:

The Aged who have borne the heat of the day—Impatience possess ye your souls. Your days are numbered but not finished; may those that remain be your brightest and best.

Gird up your loins with all your might,  
And keep your Christian armor bright,  
And when the Master calls, fear not to launch away;  
The dear ones on the other side  
Are more than are here to-day.

And now to all, to you I say,  
As this Centennial Day on earth to us much joy hath given ;  
With joy unspeakable and pure,  
May we spend the next in Heaven.

William Hyde, of Ware, was called upon to respond. He spoke of the fathers and mothers of the town, and of the old times and customs. He showed to the company several interesting relics, among others his mother's wedding slippers and a sermon on "Regeneration," preached by his father in 1789.

A vote of thanks to the Lee Band was moved, in behalf of the emigrants, by Rev. Dr. Ingersoll, and, after being seconded in behalf of the citizens by William Taylor, was heartily adopted. The exercises closed at fifteen minutes before six, with a few words from the President of the Day who, for the town, thanked the returning residents for their attendance and trusted they had enjoyed the reunion—and though no formal response was made, it was easy to see in their beaming faces that they had.

The private expression of the returning exiles was unanimous in testifying to the great satisfaction which the occasion had given, and this feeling was fully reciprocated on the part of the citizens of Lee. Old friendships were revived, new ones formed, family ties were strengthened, and all felt that it was good once more to meet in the church and around a common table. The old town was universally commended as having made great improvements in her agriculture, architecture, roads, bridges, schools, churches and the comforts of life generally, and as still the abode of peace, plenty and righteousness.



## INTERESTING INCIDENTS OF CENTENNIAL DAY.

The Congregational Church in which the Centennial exercises were held, was decorated by the ladies with excellent taste. Flowers and evergreens adorned the altar and walls, and over the pulpit was an evergreen scroll with this inscription in large evergreen letters: "1777 Welcome 1877." On the right of the pulpit hung the portrait of Dr. Alvan Hyde, and on the left that of Dr. Nahum Gale, with the dates of their long pastorates.

Conspicuous among the decorations in the village was a large flag suspended over Main street, and bearing the motto: "Lee Welcomes her Children." Another large banner floated in front of William Taylor's store. F. M. Pease's store and residence were handsomely draped with bunting, as was also the bank. Wellington Smith's residence was noticeable with flags at every projecting point. Exchange block was decked with a profusion of small flags, while E. Wright & Co., B. H. Taintor, and numerous others along the street, honored the day with a liberal display.

The Centennial was ushered in at East Lee by a rousing salute, fired from the old Jackson cannon, that patriotic old veteran, which, since the days of Old Hickory, has rendered such good service, and never failed to belch forth its rejoicings on every anniversary of our independence. Even if touched by no human hand, the old powder-blackened war-dog would, we almost believe, have blazed away of itself at the Centennial. Thanks to the "boys" who so gallantly manned it.

One pleasant feature of the celebration was the knowledge it brought to many of distant and long-parted friends. One case in particular is worthy of notice: A Lee lady had lost all trace of her grandmother, living somewhere in the West, but where she did not know.

As it happened, one of the visitors to the Centennial came from the very town where this grandmother lived, and brought to the granddaughter the first tidings she had had for many years of her venerable relative.

Among the visitors from a distance was Mrs. Harriet Nesbett, of Elyria, O. Mrs. Nesbett is youngest of the family of Maj. William Ingersoll, Jr., who left Lee in 1816, and secured homes for his seven sons in the unbroken forest, then known as No. 4, in range 16, of the Western Reserve, or "New Connecticut." No other representative of that pioneer family was present. Mrs. Nesbett is also the youngest granddaughter of William Ingersoll, who died in 1815, leaving 149 living descendants. Of that large number, only two joined in the festivities of this occasion—Mrs. Nesbett and Jared Ingersoll, of Saratoga, N. Y.

Among the old residents called for, but who were not in the tent, or at least did not respond, were William Hawk and Mr. Whiting of Wellington, O., and Marshall Wilcox of Pittsfield.

Though the rush of visitors was somewhat greater than had been expected, yet the Committee had made such ample provisions for any contingency, that many more might have been accommodated if necessary.

The attractiveness of the dinner was greatly enhanced by the white-aproned young men and coquettishly-capped young ladies, sons and daughters of citizens who had volunteered as waiters upon the company. They thus exemplified a favorite maxim of their late pastor, Dr. Gale, "The post of service is the post of honor."

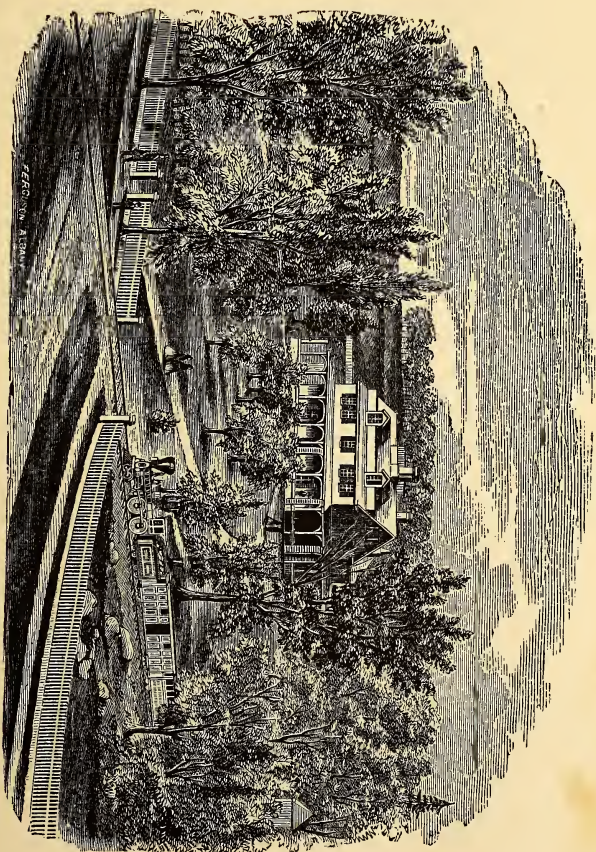
The town appointed a large force of special policemen, but there was little for them to do. The thousands thronging the streets were very orderly and well-behaved, and only one arrest was made, and he a stranger in the town.

Dr. Andrews and Dr. Bentley, Centennial visitors, remained and preached at the Congregational church Sunday, and in the evening the pastor gave an extra Centennial sermon.

It was a good joke on the part of the leader of the band, while the guests were quietly waiting for the first course at the Centennial Dinner, to order the playing of "The Sweet By and By."

Among the returning old residents was Oliver West, of Pittsfield, Ohio, who left Lee in 1832, and in all these forty-five years, had not visited his old home. "O, how changed!" was his exclamation, as he stood at the south door of Memorial Hall and looked at the beautiful gem of a park occupying the site of the old church in which he used to worship, the Hall itself standing near where the church horse-sheds once stood. When he was a lad the name of West was common in Lee; now, not one is left to bear up the once honored name. He desired to be quartered among the old neighbors of his father, the late Joshua West, and he was assigned by the committee to the care of Mr. J. B. Freeman, and among the farms and families of that vicinity he felt more at home. Moral: Old residents should not stay away so long if they want to find friends, acquaintances and old landmarks.

Among the many pleasing incidents of the Centennial were the reunions of families long and widely scattered. At the hospitable home of Mr. H. Garfield, were gathered his sisters, Mrs. Carey from Keokuk, Iowa, and Mrs. Waite from Chicago, with numerous other friends and relatives; no brother, however, of the originally large number being left to join the happy circle. At Mr. A. G. Hulbert's were congregated, besides his own children and grandchildren, the Ingersolls and Chamberlins, a housefull, and all hearts overflowing with love and pleasant reminiscences. At Mr. William Taylor's, were his



RESIDENCE OF ALEXANDER HYDE.



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brothers Charles, Horace, Edward and Frank, accompanied by their wives and one sister, Sophia; the health of the two other sisters, Mrs. Churchill and Mills, not permitting them to be present. At the old parsonage of Dr. Hyde, now occupied by his youngest son, Alexander, were William Hyde of Ware, and his family, Mrs. Marsh of New York, Dr. Andrews of Marietta, Ohio, Dr. Bentley of Ellenville, N. Y., and others. Here were to be found four generations, reckoning Mrs. Hyde's mother, Mrs. Hull, as one. The latter, a lady of 86 years, entered into the occasion as heartily as any one, ascending "Fern Cliff" to hear Professor Barlow's oration, and after listening to the address of Mr. Chamberlin, spending the afternoon of Centennial Day in the tent, that she might enjoy the flow of soul in the post-prandial feast. At the mansion of the brothers, E. S. and S. S. May, were congregated a large circle of friends and relations, including their sons from New York; the Parkers from Dunbarton, N. H., and the Ingersolls from Ohio. At Mr. Nathan Gibbs', were his son Edward and family from Norwich, Conn., Dr. and Mrs. Flint from Hinsdale, Miss Holder and others.

Much regret was expressed at the non-appearance at the Centennial of the Hon. Asahel Foote, of Williamstown, a septuagenarian descendant of one of the first settlers of Lee. When, during the previous week it was ascertained that Mr. Foote was not expecting to be present, some of his friends wrote, urging him to come. The following letter explains his absence, and contains so many pleasant reminiscences of the Foote family, and so much of historical interest, that we publish it entire :

WILLIAMSTOWN, September 20, 1877.

*Dear Sir:*—On the 8th inst., I took my week's mail from the post office, and not anticipating anything more from that quarter for a few days, and being still under the influence of a slight bilious attack, by

which my strength had been considerably reduced, I did not again visit the street until Tuesday, the 12th, when I was surprised to find *three* different communications from Lee, inviting me to a participation in the social feast of the two days immediately to follow. I need not undertake to tell *you* how many and how strong and *immortal* are the ties that bind my heart to the place of my birth; for there *you*, too, can visit the graves of the mother on whose bosom you nestled in infancy, of the father who guarded and guided your childhood, of brothers and sisters who were the participants of *all* the joys and sorrows of your early years, and of many others on whose graves you could not help but drop regretful tears when they were laid away from your sight forever. Though 54 years have kept their obliterating fingers busily at work since I was a resident of Lee, my memory still travels back even to the "great total eclipse" of 1806, (of which I have yet a very distinct impression,) and often entertains me with scenes that I witnessed myself in those "former days," and with storied events that had transpired on the same ground previous to my birth; among which latter I might mention the scene of the bear attacking and destroying a large porker in the highway running east from the village, at a point nearly opposite the burying-place of the first occupant of the Cemetery, no gun being procurable in the neighborhood, and the blowing of horns and shells being insufficient to frighten him from his prey. The killing of an infuriated bear with a knot caught up after the attack, on the southern border of the town, by a man of the name of Hewlett; whence the name of "Beartown Mountain." The slaughter of 124 rattlesnakes on the southwest slope of Pixley mountain, on a Sunday morning, by two brothers Ingersoll, who were in quest of their horses to take the family to church. The battle of my uncle David Foote with a moose of the largest dimensions (I used to see his immense horns in my early childhood), that attacked him (likewise on a Sunday morning, and while hunting up his horses), at a point about 100 rods east of T. L. Foote's residence, on a stony piece of ground, thick set at the time with large girdled trees. During the contest, the enraged animal repeatedly scaled, with ease, a high log fence, and drove the assailed party from tree to tree, behind which he sought refuge, until at last he caught one of his fore feet fast between two logs that with others had been rolled together for burning. This afforded a good opportunity for the effective employment of the "hard heads" that abounded in the locality, and so vigorously did my uncle hurl them directly at the animal's forehead, (he had previously used the same weapons, but not with such advantage,) that when after a time the foot became disengaged, he turned to the east, and

walking, with difficulty, as far as "The Hamlin Spring," thence drank his fill, and lying down was no more able to rise. So he became my uncle's trophy. About the same period, there was got up a great wolf-hunt; every man that owned a gun in the town of Lee, Lenox and Richmond being invited to put in an appearance at a given point in the latter town, for the purpose of surrounding a certain swamp, (perhaps that over which the A. and B. R. R. now passes on an *underground embankment* seventy feet deep,) where several wolves that had recently made great havoc with the little flocks in the vicinity, had taken shelter. The swamp was duly surrounded and the wolves dislodged, but not taken. The sequel *of course* was a great *wrestling-match*, in which, though not a practiced wrestler, my father came off champion. In the primitive days of Lee, the meal consumed by its inhabitants was obtained in this wise (repeatedly by my father, as he used to tell me): a sack of corn, as large as could be thus transported, was placed across a horse's back, and the horse led by "blazed" trees, down the valley of the Housatonic to a mill in Connecticut, (I cannot name the town with certainty,) some thirty miles distant; whence, after being converted into "breadstuff," it (minus the "toll") was returned in like manner, to the anxious, expectant family.

*The Cave* in "The Ledge," north-east of your village, may still, for aught I know, be visited as one of the ancient notorieties of Lee. Here my uncle Fenner Foote's wife (Sarah) secreted and fed, for some time, her brother, Peter Wilcox, who was one of the Shays refugees, on whom the Government wished to lay its hands. A brother of his was slain in a rencontre between the two parties, somewhere in the town of Sheffield. I cannot say, without referring to the history of the times, whether he was not the *only man slain* in that famous war. One more Foote anecdote, and I will "hush up" on that name. In 1779, my father at the age of sixteen, became a "soldier of the Revolution," and served, at two different enrollments, an aggregate of twelve months,—six at Schoharie and six at West Point; at which latter place he was present at the laying of the "great chain" across the Hudson to stop the upward progress of the enemy's ships. There he was personally reviewed by Washington. At the close of his West Point campaign, he returned home on horseback, reaching Lee in the middle of a very dark night. The next morning there was quite a sensation produced in the village by the discovery that during the night a horse had passed over the Housatonic, at the point where the bridge now stands, (near the residence of Alexander Hyde, Esq.,) *on a single stringer*. The bridge had been taken up for repairs.

Three stringers had been placed upon the abutments, the second lying on the first, and the third by the side of the latter. On this third stringer, my father had safely ridden over the river, in entire ignorance of his true relations to the watery element beneath him,—certainly a great compliment to the circumspection of *his horse*. I must say one thing more about the Footes, after all, and that is that my uncle Fenner Foote was also a Revolutionary soldier; that he was in the terribly bloody battle of Stony Point, and accompanied Benedict Arnold in his frightful Winter march to the St. Lawrence. Both David and Fenner Foote reached the age of 94 years.

In early times, the mountains on the east and north-east of Lee were well supplied with deer, and its streams, especially those which drained the Green-water and Goose ponds, were abundantly stocked with trout. I have heard my father say that when a boy he could at any time take as many trout from this "great brook," by an hour's angling as he cared to trudge home with. In my childhood a single specimen was taken from the old "Winegar dam" that weighed five pounds; and I have myself seen numbers drawn from the same stream that would weigh from one to three pounds.

How changed the physical geography of Lee from what it was seventy-five years ago! The revolution in the manners and customs of its people has been no less remarkable. In those days, shoes and stockings were associated almost wholly with the rigors of Winter—especially so far as the young people were concerned, and nothing was more common than to see well-to-do people wending their way to church on the Sabbath bare-footed. But though one should meet a hundred lads and lasses passing in this condition, he would not fail to receive from each one of them a respectful bow or courtesy.

In dress and equipage there was a primeval simplicity little dreamed of by the present generation. Wool and tow were carded and flax hatched, and all of them spun into yarn, on the appropriate wheels, and afterwards woven into cloth by the female members (yes, by *the ladies*!) of every farm-house, and the cloth often dyed, too, in the domestic dye-tub; and when the fabrics were ready, a tailor, or tailoress, was called in and *employed by the day* to furnish the household with the necessary garments for the season. In like manner, the "cordwainer" (shoemaker) was called in, as the cold season approached, to furnish the family with shoes and boots from the hides, which the *paterfamilias* had taken care to have tanned for that purpose.

As to modes of conveyance, but two were ordinarily employed by the common people; the horse with a saddle for one rider, and a saddle



and pillion for two. A full load, however, commonly consisted of a father in the saddle, a mother on the pillion, and the youngest child in the arms of the latter. The second mode was by means of a one or two-horse lumber wagon, furnished with a substantial *splint-bottomed*, double arm-chair for the old people, and the requisite number of good, nicely planed *soft boards*, laid across the sides of the wagon, for the juveniles. Besides these, the two-wheeled *shay* was to be seen occasionally; and "once upon a time," a cart and oxen made their appearance before Dr. Hyde's church door, on a Sabbath morning, and to the unbounded astonishment of all the beholders, was then and there relieved of its load, consisting of a mother and several children, by being unkeyed and "tipped up," as if it was only being delivered of a load of pumpkins, by the ungracious husband and father, who took this mode of punishing his family for the sin of insisting on going to a religious meeting. The name of this "lewd fellow of the baser sort," was Sam Winegar, (Vinegar should have been his name, to correspond with his reputed disposition,) an uncle of the late Zaccheus Winegar, known to most of your present population.

The modes of lighting and warming houses in those early times, (*i. e.*, dwelling-houses, for meeting-houses were not warmed at all,) were very diverse from those of the present day, "tallow-dips" being exclusively used for the former purpose, and large, open "fire-places," (with chimneys almost as large, though not as tall as our factory "stacks,") capable of receiving at a single firing-up, a fair-sized modern wood-pile, for the latter. Often have I *seen* these fire-places fed with logs that required two men to handle them; and often have I heard how, in still earlier times, the big beech and birch and maple logs were hauled to the fire-places, in the first "log-houses," by horse-power.

Here, I "guess" I will "haul up." When I penned the first sentence in this communication, my simple purpose was to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind letter, and acquaint you with the reasons of my non-appearance at your Centennial; but my thoughts posted off in the direction which you see they have taken, and I just let them run—"at random," I fear you will be tempted to add.

As to my failure to put in an appearance at your festival, I was, in the first place, in such a state of health, as in the opinion of my family, to render it imprudent for me to leave home; and in the second place, my water supply having failed, I was engaged, with several men in laying a new water-pipe, a distance of sixty rods—the supervision of which I could not abandon.

Most sincerely yours,

A. FOOTE.



It is but justice to the Centennial Committee to say, in concluding this account of the celebration, that their labors were indefatigable to make the occasion one of pleasure and profit, and one that would redound to the credit of the town. Great harmony prevailed in all their sessions, which, for six months previous to the Centennial, were held once a fortnight, and the latter part of the time once a week, and sometimes oftener. Neither time, labor or money were spared to ensure success, and in the results they feel amply compensated.

The reception committee, Messrs. W. J. Bartlett, C. H. Sabin and J. W. Bassett, kept a register of the names of the former residents of Lee, and of the husbands, wives and descendants of the same, who returned to the Centennial, with parentage and present place of residence. From this register we compile the following list: Possibly some were present whose names failed to be put on the register. The whole number registered was 270, of whom the following is a list. Parentage not given when not of Lee descent.

NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Allen, Augustus	J. B. Allen,	Boston.
Allen, Mrs. J. A.	Jones Strickland,	Springfield.
Allen, Mrs. Ann M.	Moses Culver,	Boston.
Ames, Wm. H.		New York.
Ames, Isabel M.	W. H. Ames,	New York.
Ames, John H.	W. H. Ames,	Stamford, Conn.
Ames, Wm. H. 2d.	J. H. Ames,	Stamford, Conn.
Ames, J. H.	J. H. Ames,	Stamford, Conn.
Andrews, J. W.		Marietta, Ohio.
Avery, W. L.		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Baldwin, Wm. C.	Wm. H. Baldwin,	Falls Village.
Bancroft, James		East Hartford.
Bancroft, Minerva		East Hartford.
Barlow, Elisha H.	Seth Barlow,	Easton, Pa.
Barlow, Mrs. E. H.		Easton, Pa.
Barlow, Annie M.	Seth Barlow,	Northampton.
Barlow, A. H.	Wm. Barlow,	North Adams.

NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Barnes, Edward E.		Great Barrington.
Barnes, Mrs. E. E.	Seymour,	Great Barrington.
Bartlett, Harry H.	Hubbard Bartlett,	Norwalk, Conn.
Bartlett, Mrs. B. F.	Rufus Hewitt,	Lenox.
Bassett, A. H.	Isaac Bassett,	Pittsfield.
Bassett, Mrs. A. H.		Pittsfield.
Bassett, Joseph H.	Joseph Bassett,	Stockbridge.
Bassett, Isaac	Nathaniel Bassett,	Stockbridge.
Bassett, Mrs. Isaac	Asahel Foote,	Stockbridge.
Bassett, Wm. W.	Isaac Bassett,	Burlington, Vt.
Beadle, Mrs. M. R. Y.	Cyrus Yale,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Bentley, E. W.	Wm. Bentley,	Ellenville, N. Y.
Bidwell, Charlotte		Great Barrington.
Beardsall, Mrs. B.		Boonville, N. Y.
Beardsall, Cora		Boonville, N. Y.
Blake, J. W.	Wm. Blake,	Monterey.
Blake, Mrs. J. W.	Enoch Cobb,	Monterey.
Blake, Wm. E.	J. W. Blake,	Monterey.
Black, Geo. N.	William Black,	Springfield, Ill.
Birge, Mrs.	Rufus Hewitt.	Torrington, Conn.
Birge, Mr.		Torrington, Conn.
Birge, Miss		Torrington, Conn.
Birge, Miss		Torrington, Conn.
Bond, Wm. B.		New Braintree.
Bond, Mrs. W. B.	Noah Sheldon,	New Braintree.
Boss, Mrs. C. D.	J. H. Royce,	New London, Conn.
Bradley, Mrs. H. D.	Elisha Dodge,	Stockbridge.
Bradley, Cornelia		Stockbridge.
Bradley, Chauncy B.	Geo. T. Bradley,	Stockbridge.
Bradley, William	Wm. Bradley,	Wellington, Ohio.
Buckley, J. C.	Geo. C. Buckley,	Chicopee.
Buckley, G. L.	Geo. C. Buckley,	Holyoke.
Burt, G. W.		Clayville, N. Y.
Burt, Mrs. G. W.	Geo. H. Phelps,	Clayville, N. Y.
Burt, Sarah V.	G. W. Burt,	Clayville, N. Y.
Burt, Harry P.	G. W. Burt,	Clayville, N. Y.
Burt, Mary A.	G. W. Burt,	Clayville, N. Y.
Brook, William		North Adams.
Brook, Mrs. Wm.		North Adams.
Carey, Mrs. Lucy G.	Silas Garfield,	Keokuk, Iowa.
Chamberlin, Franklin	Joseph Chamberlin,	Hartford, Conn.

NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Chamberlin, Mrs. F.	Wm. Porter,	Hartford, Conn.
Chamberlin, J. P.	Joseph Chamberlin,	Unionville, Conn.
Chase, Mrs. J. L.	W. R. Brown,	Dalton.
Cobb, Mrs. Elizabeth		North Adams.
Comstock, S. W.		Stockbridge.
Comstock, Mrs. S. W.	I. M. Taylor,	Stockbridge.
Conant, C. L.		Saint Louis. Mo.
Condit, J. W.		Orange, N. J.
Condit, Mrs. J. W.	Stephen Bradley,	Orange, N. J.
Condit, Jennie W.	J. W. Condit,	Orange, N. J.
Crosby, Cyrus	Abner Crosby,	Monterey.
Culver, John F.	Wm. L. Culver,	Ellington, Conn.
Culver, Mrs. J. F.		Ellington, Conn.
Culver, Charles	J. F. Culver,	Ellington, Conn.
Culver, Walter,	J. F. Culver,	Ellington, Conn.
Crane, Mrs. Z. M.	Winthrop Laffin,	Dalton.
Clark, Mrs. Mary A. P.	James Pierce.	Springfield.
Cranston, Wm. H.		Pittsfield.
Cranston, Mrs. W. H.		Pittsfield.
Cone, Samuel	Gilbert Cone,	Northampton.
Day, Mrs. Alma	Erastus Hall,	Northampton.
Drake, Mrs. Lucy T.	Rowland Thatcher,	Ogden, N. Y.
Drew, J. H.		St. Louis, Mo.
Drew, Mrs. J. H.	Wm. Ingersoll,	St. Louis, Mo.
Drew, E. Bassett,	J. H. Drew,	St. Louis, Mo.
Dresser, Chas. E.	David Dresser,	Leominster.
Doane, Mrs. Harriet T.	Nathaniel Tobey,	New Bedford.
Flint, Ephraim		Hinsdale.
Fairchild, Mrs. A. W.	Wm. A. Stone,	South Hadley Falls.
Fessenden, Stephen	Cornelius T. Fessenden,	Genoa, N. Y.
Foote, Edward	Lyman Foote,	Boston.
Foote, Mrs. Edward		Boston.
Ford, Michael		Becket.
Ford, Michael W.	Michael Ford,	Becket.
Fraleigh, Mrs. Addie		Pine Plains, N. Y.
Fraleigh, Gilbert		Pine Plains, N. Y.
Fuller, J. W.	Benjamin Fuller,	Pittsfield.
Freeman, E. P.	Elisha Freeman,	New York.
Freeman, Mrs. E. P.	Isaac Ball,	New York.
Frissell, M. M.		Kingston, N. Y.
Frissell, Mrs. M. M.	Henry Smith,	Kingston, N. Y.

NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Gould, Mrs. Mary	Isaac M. Taylor,	Stockbridge.
Gould, Edwin T.		Stockbridge.
Gibbs, Edward N.	Nathan Gibbs,	Norwich, Conn.
Gibbs, Mrs. E. N.		Norwich, Conn.
Gibbs, Herbert R.	Franklin W. Gibbs,	Cambridge.
Gibbs, Mrs. H. R.		Cambridge.
Graves, Miles W.	Seth D. Graves,	Hartford, Conn.
Graves, Mrs. A. E.	Timothy Thatcher,	Hartford, Conn.
Hale, Henry		Pittsfield.
Hale, Mrs. H.	Anthony Goodspeed,	Pittsfield.
Hazen, Mrs. S. A.	Isaac C. Ives,	Goshen, Conn.
Hess, Amil	Ferdinand Hess,	Enfield, Conn.
Hess, John E.	Amil Hess,	Enfield, Conn.
Heebner, Chas. F.	Edmund Heebner,	South Hadley Falls.
Heath, L. R.		Tyringham.
Heath, Mrs. L. R.	Benjamin Osborn,	Tyringham.
Houghton, Rose	Thomas Houghton,	New Marlboro.
Hollister, Mrs. Frank	Joseph Bassett,	Wilbraham.
Hollister, Nellie	Frank Hollister,	Wilbraham.
Howk, Wm.	John Howk,	Wellington, Ohio.
Howk, Eli B.	David Howk,	Wellington, Ohio.
Howland, Harry	James Howland,	Dalton.
Howland, Mrs. H.		Dalton.
Hinckley, L. T.	Benjamin Hinckley,	Stockbridge.
Hubbard, E. A.		Springfield.
Hubbard, Mrs. E. A.		Springfield.
Howard, Mrs. Samuel	C. B. Nye,	Springfield.
Hunter, Emma	Robert Hunter,	Huntington.
Hill, Frank W.	Wm. H. Hill,	Pittsfield.
Hill, Mary J.		Pittsfield.
Hulbert, Lewis	Nathan Hulbert,	Windsor, N. Y.
Hulbert, H. C.	A. G. Hulbert,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hulbert, Mrs. H. C.	Wm. Porter,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hulbert, Susie C.	H. C. Hulbert,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hulbert, Carrie B.	H. C. Hulbert,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hull, J. B.		Stockbridge.
Hull, Mrs. J. B.	E. P. Tanner,	Stockbridge.
Hyde, William	Alvan Hyde,	Ware.
Hyde, Mrs. W.		Ware.
Hyde, Hattie S.	Wm. Hyde,	Ware.
Hyde, Susie B.	W. S. Hyde,	Ware.

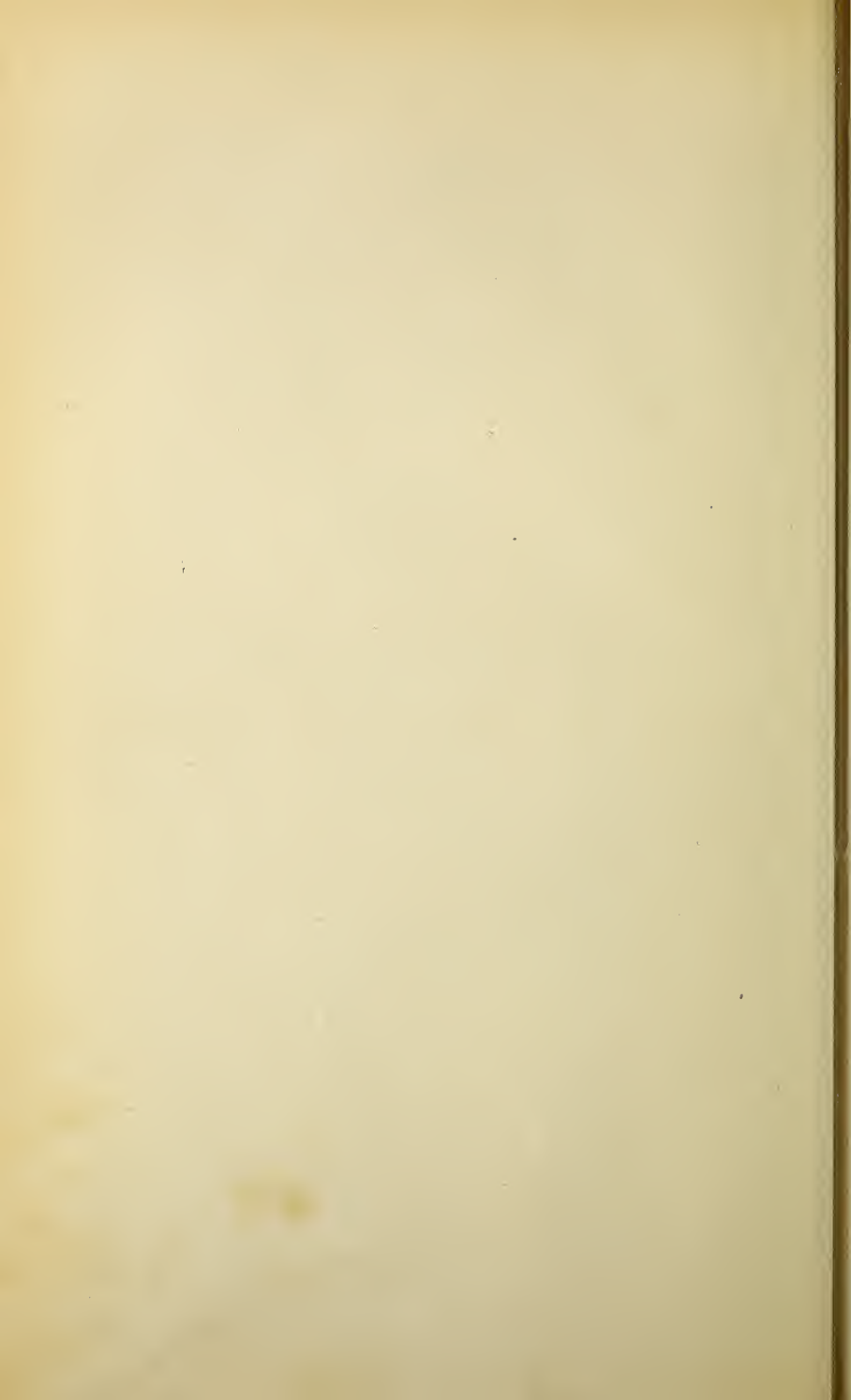
NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Ingersoll, Mrs. S. B.	Ansel Bassett,	Oberlin, Ohio.
Ingersoll, Mrs. E. B.	Wm. Ball,	Grafton, Ohio.
Ingersoll, E. P.	Wm. Ingersoll,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ingersoll, Jared	Jared Ingersoll,	Saratoga, N. Y.
Ingersoll, Mrs. J.	Stephen Thatcher,	Saratoga, N. Y.
Ives, Henry	Isaac C. Ives,	New Milford, Conn.
Ives, Mrs. H.	Josiah Yale,	New Milford, Conn.
Ives, Henry C.	Henry Ives,	New Milford, Conn.
Ives, Sarah L.	Henry Ives,	New Milford, Conn.
Johnson, Alonzo S.	J. W. Johnson,	West Springfield.
Johnson,		Westfield.
Johnson,		Westfield.
Johnson, James	Timothy Johnson,	Pittsfield.
Johnson, Mrs. J.		Pittsfield.
Johnson, Mrs.		Pittsfield.
Kidd, E.	Anthony Goodspeed,	Pittsfield.
Manley, A. B.		Springfield.
Markham, Miss A. J.		Pittsfield.
Markham, Mrs. M.		Pittsfield.
Markham, Mrs. Charles		Pittsfield.
Merrill, Edgar S.	John S. Merrill,	Suffield, Conn.
Merrill, Mrs. E. S.		Suffield, Conn.
Merrill, William,	Frank Merrill,	Great Barrington.
Merrill, Mrs. Wm. M.		Berkshire, N. Y.
Merrill, Harry	Wm. M. Merrill,	Berkshire, N. Y.
McClaren, Mrs. S.	John Bickley,	North Adams.
McClaren, J. G.		North Adams.
McClaren, Ida		North Adams.
Maish, Mrs. E. H.	Alexander Hyde,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
May, Mary S.		Whately.
May, Chas.	E. S. May,	New York.
May, S. S. Jr.	S. S. May,	New York.
Murray, Wm. H.		Pittsfield.
Murray, Mrs. W. H.	Horace Hatch,	Pittsfield.
Murray, Ella	W. H. Murray,	Pittsfield.
Miller, Mrs. Lewis	Rufus Hewitt,	Torrington, Conn.
Moore, Thom's J.		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Moore, Mrs. T. J.	Patrick Tully,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Nesbitt, Mrs. Harriet	J. Wm. Ingersoll,	Elyria, Ohio.
Nettleton, L. J.		Great Barrington.
Northrop, L.		New Milford, Conn.



NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Northrop, Mrs. L.	J. L. Drake,	New Milford, Conn.
Northrop, Carrie	L. Northrop,	New Milford, Conn.
Parker, Dan'l H.		Dunbarton, N. H.
Parker, Mrs. D. H.	Ansel Bassett,	Dunbarton, N. H.
Peck, Gilbert H.		Bloomfield, N. J.
Peck, Mrs. G. H.	Cornelius Barlow,	Bloomfield, N. J.
Peck, Chs. O.	G. H. Peck,	Bloomfield, N. J.
Phelps, G. A.	G. H. Phelps,	Great Barrington.
Phelps, Mrs. G. A.		Great Barrington.
Phelps, Helen	G. A. Phelps,	Great Barrington.
Pinney, Mrs. Frances	Wm. H. Brown,	Winsted, Conn.
Platner, Wm.		Newark, N. J.
Platner, Mrs. Wm.	Sam'l Ball,	Newark, N. J.
Porter, Mrs. Wm.		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Pitkin, Mrs. Lucy T. Y.	Cyrus Yale,	Philadelphia.
Richards, Mrs. K. C.	Winthrop Laffin,	Dalton.
Roberts, Mrs. Abby J.	Wm. Ingersoll,	Cincinnati, Ohio.
Ross, Chas. E.	Luther Ross,	Chicago, Ill.
Ross, Geo. A.	Luther Ross,	Chicago, Ill.
Royce, J. A.		Lanesboro.
Royce, Mrs. J. A.		Lanesboro.
Royce, Rubert S.	J. A. Royce,	Lanesboro.
Royce, Jesse	J. A. Royce,	Lanesboro.
Remann,	Wm. Black,	Springfield, Ill.
Rice, Isabel		Rockville, Ct.
Sabin, Jno. F.	Henry Sabin,	Great Barrington.
Sabin, Mrs. J. F.		Great Barrington.
Sexton, Edson	Timothy Sexton,	Great Barrington.
Sarle, J. F.		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sarle, Mrs. J. F.	Wm. Cone,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sarle, Jennie B.		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sexton, Lottie	Isaac Bassett,	Kendall, Ill.
Sexton, Charles		Kendall, Ill.
Smith, Mrs. John		Kingston, N. Y.
Smith, Kitty	John Smith,	Kingston, N. Y.
Spaulding, J. R.		Pittsfield.
Steele, Francis	— Evelin,	Honesdale, Pa.
Steele, Clara	— Evelin,	Honesdale, Pa.
Sprague, Wm.		Pittsfield.
Sprague, Alida	Anthony Goodspeed,	Pittsfield.
Sumner, Jno. J.		Great Barrington.

NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Sumner, Mrs. J. J.		Great Barrington.
Sturges, Henry	Thomas Sturges,	Dalton.
Sturges, Mrs. Henry		Dalton.
Strong, F. W.		Hinsdale.
Strong, Mrs. F. W.	E. Parker,	Hinsdale.
Sexton, Emeline M.		Hartford, Conn.
Stevens, Mrs. Edward	Josiah Yale,	Saratoga, N. Y.
Stevens, E. R.	Edward Stevens,	Saratoga, N. Y.
Starr, Watson	Wm. Bradley,	Penfield, Ohio.
Starr, Sarah B.	Wm. Bradley,	Penfield, Ohio.
Taylor, Horace	Abner Taylor,	Pittsfield.
Taylor, Mrs. Horace		Pittsfield.
Taylor, Charles	Abner Taylor,	Englewood, N. Y.
Taylor, Edward	Abner Taylor,	Binghamton, N. Y.
Taylor, Sophia	Abner Taylor,	New York.
Taylor, F. G.	Abner Taylor,	Newark, N. J.
Taylor, Mrs. F. G.		Newark, N. J.
Taylor, Emma		New York.
Thomas, Mrs. Mahala B.	Stephen Fessenden,	Genoa, N. Y.
Tyler, D. W.		Dalton.
Tyler, Mrs. D. W.	James Brown,	Dalton.
Tuttle, Chauncey	Jonathan Tuttle,	New Marlboro.
Tuttle, Ira N.	Chauncey Tuttle,	New Marlboro.
Tuttle, Frank W.	Ira N. Tuttle,	New Marlboro.
Tuttle, Fred B.	Ira N. Tuttle,	New Marlboro.
Tyrrell, Horace		New Boston.
Tyrrell, Mrs. Melissa	Asa Gleason,	New Boston.
Videto, Chas. J.		Tyringham.
Videto, Mrs. C. J.	Abijah Merrill,	Tyringham.
Van Bergan, Mrs. G.	Sam'l Clarke,	Pittsfield.
Waite, Mrs. Jane E.	Silas Garfield,	Chicago, Ill.
Wickes, Mrs. Loretta	D. B. Whiton,	Troy, N. Y.
West, Oliver	Joshua West,	Pittsfield, Ohio.
West, Mrs. Oliver		Pittsfield, Ohio.
Way, Mrs. Jane	Lewis Beach,	Suffield, Conn.
West, N. B.	Timothy West,	Allegan, Mich.
West, Mrs. N. B.		Allegan, Mich.
Wilcox, Marshall		Pittsfield.
Wilcox, Mrs. M.	Wm. Bradley,	Pittsfield.
Warren, Joseph		Brooklyn, N. Y.
Warren, Mrs. J.	Pientiss Chaffee,	Brooklyn, N. Y.

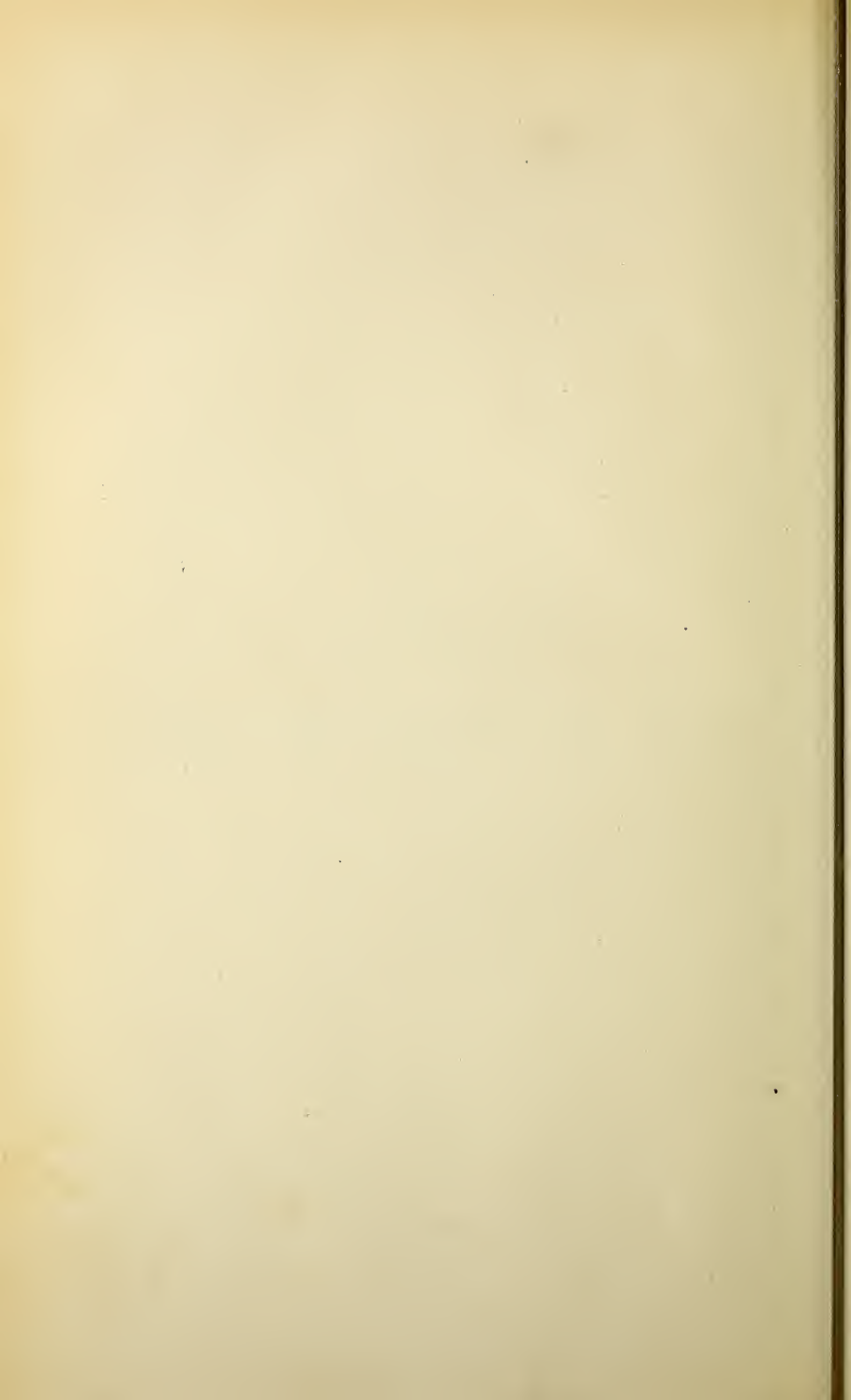
NAMES.	PARENTAGE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
Whiton, Walter	Milo Whiton,	Troy, N. Y.
Whiton, Loomis	Jno. M. Whiton,	Wellington, Ohio.
Wood, George		Sandisfield.
Wood, Mrs. G.	David Baker,	Sandisfield.
Whiting, Isabella G.		Great Barrington.
Wordin, William		Ridgeville, Ohio.
Wordin, Mrs. Wm.	Wm. Ingersoll,	Ridgeville, Ohio.
Yale, Josiah	Josiah Yale,	Saratoga.
Youngs, Mrs. S. A.	Seth Handy,	Stockbridge.



PART II.

THE HISTORY OF LEE.





## PREFATORY NOTE.

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It was the original intention of the Committee that the Centennial Address should present in a popular form an Outline History of the town. The time allotted to the speaker on the anniversary day would allow him to present only the prominent characteristics of each period, and the points of greatest personal interest. The following notes were gathered by Dr. Charles M. Hyde, as the surveyor jots down in his field-book the memoranda from which he afterwards constructs his plat of the survey. They are intended to be full and accurate statements of all facts of general interest in the growth and progress of the town for the first century of its history. More like an artist's sketches than an elaborately finished picture, they are of practical value for reference in the form in which they are now presented, if not so attractive and interesting as if they could have been presented with a rhetorician's skill and an orator's fervor. After Dr. Hyde's appointment as President of the Theological Seminary at Honolulu, which necessitated his departure from the country before the time appointed for the Centennial Celebration, he put into the hands of the Committee the notes that he had made, that the Orator chosen in his place might have the benefit of his historical researches. Though arranged substantially as now presented, some topics were not fully treated. The Committee therefore requested Alexander Hyde to complete and prepare these notes for publication, particularly the ecclesiastical and industrial history of the town, and

biographical sketches, for which Dr. Hyde had had time to collect only a few memoranda. In the preparation of the notes, free use was made of the sketch of Lee written by Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde for Dr. Field's History of Berkshire County, published in 1829: Rev. Amory Gale's History of Lee, an address delivered before the Young Men's Association, March 22, 1854, and published at that time: Rev. Dr. Nahum Gale's address at the laying of the corner stone of the Congregational Church, July 21, 1857: and his Historical Address, delivered at the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Sunday-school, December 23, 1869: the files of the Berkshire County *Eagle*, and of the Valley *Gleaner*, published respectively at Pittsfield and at Lee, have been examined; and besides the records in the Town Clerk's office, those in the Register's office at Great Barrington, Pittsfield and Springfield, as well as the documents on file in the State House at Boston, have been consulted and copied. For the report of the dinner speeches on Centennial Day, credit must be given mainly to the Valley *Gleaner*. It was the original design to add fuller notices of some of the early settlers and distinguished citizens, than can be given in current history; but after collecting many facts and data for these biographies, it was found that they would swell the work to a large size, especially as when once started in this direction, the historian would not know where to stop.

## Topographical, Scenographical, Geological, Etc.

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REV. DR. ALVAN HYDE wrote for Field's History of Berkshire County, the following description of the town:

"The town is six miles in length and five in breadth, and presents a very diversified appearance. It forms a part of the interval which lies between the Taconic and Green Mountain ranges. The Green Mountain range, which rises to a moderate elevation, runs partly within the eastern limits of the town, presenting a very picturesque appearance. These mountains are for the most part of gentle acclivity, and are cultivated in some places quite to their summits. From the base of these mountains, the surface is rather uneven, occasionally rising into hills of considerable height, but generally descending until it reaches the plain upon the banks of the Housatonic." West of this river, the land is everywhere undulating in its appearance, inclining towards the south. Beartown Mountain is a large and grand pile of hills on the south-east of Stockbridge, north-east of Great Barrington, forming the North-west part of Tyringham, and the south-west part of Lee. Deerhorn Corner, the name given to the point at the angle of the two town lines, is so called from the fact that a deer's horn was fastened here to mark the spot.

Washington Mountain, chiefly in Washington, extends south to Lee, and forms the east boundary of the Housatonic valley for several miles. East Mountain extends into and from Becket on the east side of the town.

The Housatonic river divides the town into two nearly

equal parts. Its course is southerly where it first enters the town, but before reaching South Lee it turns sharply to the West. At this place it is 831 feet above tide water at Derby, Conn. In its passage through the town the Housatonic receives the waters of Laurel Lake, formerly called Scott's Pond. The outlet of this lake empties into the river at the North end of the village. Two streams come down from Washington Mountain and empty into the Housatonic near Bradley street.

Through Cape street, flows the outlet of Green Water Pond in Becket, which unites in Water street, with the outlet of Lake May and Long Pond, two natural reservoirs artificially increased, lying partly in Lee, and partly in Tyringham. These two streams both before and after their union, furnish power for numerous mills.

Hop Brook flows down from Tyringham, and was so named from the abundance of wild hops in the low land through which it flowed. Smaller streams generally bear the name of the owners of the land through which they flow, with every change of owners changing also their names.

In the early settlement of the town, such wild animals as the bear, the wolf, and the deer, were occasionally seen. Some young men coming home from church saw a moose at the spring near Cornelius Hamblin's. In going through the woods at night, it was customary to carry torches to scare away the wolves. When one of the early settlers, one morning, looked out of his log-house to the new frame the carpenters had put up, he was startled to see a bear eyeing him, deliberately standing on his haunches. Before he could get his gun and take a sight at the bear, bruin had disappeared. Uncle Joel Bradley would tell many bear stories; for along the hills these huge creatures had their dens, and gave great trouble to the first settlers by the havoc they made in the corn field.



Lemuel Crocker is said to have suddenly met a bear, and killed him with no better weapon than a knot of wood.

The birds are such as are commonly found in Western Massachusetts, and the similar statement may be made in regard to the insects, reptiles, and fish. When the first survey was made of what is now Bradley street, the purchasers were told that they need not fear that they would suffer from any want of meat; the brooks were full of trout that would furnish ample supply the whole year round. The fisherman of these days finds these brooks pretty much dry in Summer, and the trout few in number and small in size.

Prof. Dewey gave in Dr. Field's History of Berkshire County, a list of various wild plants, that have their habitat in this region, together with the dates of their inflorescence. It is hoped that in the course of a few years, the pupils of the Lee High School will have made out a complete list of the rare plants to be found, and the localities where the lover of Botany may find them. This whole region was well-timbered, and the early settlers had great trouble in disposing of the abundant supply of wood. Much of it was made into charcoal: much burned in rude tar kilns; the hardier varieties, birch, beech, maple, were made into chair stuff. As manufacturing increased, the forests were leveled to furnish fuel for the paper mills, and steam for drying paper and driving machinery. Since the introduction of coal as fuel, both into mills and private houses, the amount of woodland has increased. By nature's rotation of crops, white pines are taking the place of maples and other hard woods, and it is hoped that the climate of this region will be ameliorated by their influence.

## GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

The mountains on the east of the town are of mica slate. Two or three eminences of quartz rock in the valley project their ragged elevations. "Fern Cliff" has quartz rocks at the base, (not auriferous,) and gneiss on the summit, in which are frequent crystals of iron pyrites. In the slaty rocks above the quartz, are numerous tourmaline crystals. But limestone is the principal rock to be found rising from the low-land. If it will not take a polish, it is not fit for use as marble, nor is it fit for cutting if it contains fibrous and bladed crystals of tremolite, such as are to be found south-west of Gross' quarry. In Hitchcock's *Geology of Massachusetts*, is a detailed description of the geological strata of this County, and a figure is given, illustrating Dr. Hitchcock's theory of the manner in which the strata have been distorted between the Hudson and the Connecticut by upheavals. Erosion next removed the softer parts and gave the present topographical outline. In *Lyell's Antiquity of Man*, is a sketch of the courses of erratic boulders traced from Canaan, N. Y., across the ranges of hills south-east to the Housatonic valley.

Limestone is readily obtained in various parts of the town. Much that is not valuable as building material, is suitable for making lime, and the production of lime has ever been one of the industries of the place. In former times, the limestone was burned in temporary kilns, and when a kiln was burned the fire was permitted to go out. Remains of these old kilns are found in all parts of the town, and as no lime is known to have been exported in the early times, it is supposed that lime was burned as it was wanted by an individual or a neighborhood. About the year 1840, Wm. L. Culver commenced burning lime in a patent self-feeding kiln, the fire of which is kept burning for months, the limestone being put in at the top

of a chimney lined with fire-brick, and the lime taken out at the bottom as fast as burned. Lee lime has quite a reputation, and finds its principal market in this and the neighboring towns, much of it being used for bleaching rags in the manufacture of paper.

“Marble is the most valuable mineral in Lee as yet discovered. The supply is inexhaustible. It is easy of access, and for a generation, at least, it will be easily quarried, as some of this marble lies 120 feet above the river. The marble is of a superior quality. Prof. Hitchcock says that it is ‘a pure crystalline double carbonate of magnesia and lime.’ It is therefore dolomite marble, 48 per cent. carbonate of lime, 49 per cent. carbonate of magnesia. Much of it is pure white and is susceptible of a very fine polish. It will also work a perfectly square arris. This renders it a desirable material for chimney-pieces, furniture, &c. Frost and heat produce little change in size and weight. It will sustain a pressure of 26,000 pounds to the square inch, while Italian marble crushes at 13,000 lbs, and most of the American marble will crush at 12,000 lbs. By some of the severest tests to which marble can be put, by the chemist and architect, Lee marble was decided to be the best in the world for a building material; hence a Congressional Committee decided that this should be the marble to be used for the enlargement of the Capitol at Washington.”

Among the mineralogical specimens to be obtained may be mentioned marl, peat, micaceous limestone, mica, quartz, gray limestone, augite, bladed tremolite, radiated actinolite, dolomite, sphere.

#### CLIMATE.

The average temperature for the county is stated by Prof. Dewey to be  $46^{\circ}$ ; ranging from  $22^{\circ}$  to  $102^{\circ}$ . The wind is from the north-west 150 days in the year. The

average rain-fall yearly is 34 inches. The Winter of 1780 was very severe. The storm of September 22 and 23, 1815, was accompanied with very high winds. A tornado in 1809 did damage in Stockbridge, and a whirlwind in Lee and adjoining towns a few years later. In 1816, there was frost every month in the year. In February, 1836, it snowed every day in the month. The Housatonic valley is much sheltered from the prevailing north-west wind, and as the river flows rapidly through the town, there is comparatively little fog and miasm. No destructive epidemic has ever prevailed, except in the year 1813, when typhoid pneumonia spread through this and neighboring towns.

#### LANDMARKS AND NOTEWORTHY POINTS OF VIEW.

On the west side of the Hoosac range of mountains that bound Lee on the east, there is abundant evidence in the terraces and sand-hills that most of the town was once under water, in fact that a great lake covered much of its territory, the Housatonic being dammed by the rocks and hills at the west end of South Lee. As the water deepened its channel at this outlet the lake gradually subsided. The table lands near Lenox Furnace and the sand-hills near the stone factory, in Water street, are evidently the result of the action of water in large body. The eminences in Lee, as in all the towns of Berkshire, afford views of surpassing beauty. Those around Laurel Lake are seldom excelled. Other towns may be more famous, but nowhere does the landscape present more varied and charming views, and nowhere are the drives more attractive.

#### BOUNDARIES.

The boundary lines of the town, as found in the records of the various perambulations required by law, do not always correspond exactly with each other, nor with those



mentioned in the act of incorporation. Some are given with great minuteness of detail. Others show unaccountable deficiencies of necessary figures. The line on the West, the dividing line between Lee and Stockbridge, is S.  $7^{\circ} 30'$  W. about 1,550 rods. Great Barrington line on the South is E.  $7^{\circ}$  S. 757 rods. Tyringham line on the South-west corner has one re-entrant angle, and running from the corner made with Great Barrington, extends N.  $37^{\circ}$  E. 628 rods, to Deerhorn Corner, where it turns and extends E.  $2^{\circ}$  S. 1,072 rods. At this south-east point of the township it forms a corner with the Becket line, which runs N.  $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. 376 rods. Here is met the Washington town line, which runs N.  $29^{\circ}$  W. 580 rods, then makes a sharp turn on line of Lot No. 63 of the old township, S  $63^{\circ}$  W. 246 rods, then takes the same course as first given N.  $29^{\circ}$  W. 1,236 rods, to the uppermost corner of the town on the East bank of the Housatonic River. From this it follows down the line of the river 1,106 rods, then across the river, enclosing a little strip between the river and a line running S.  $8^{\circ}$  W. 162 rods. Then it crosses the river again, and runs in general course W.  $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. 563 rods. Here the line makes a double jog like two steps downward N.  $6^{\circ}$  E.  $48\frac{1}{2}$  rods, S.  $85\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  E. 52 rods, N.  $10^{\circ}$  W.  $34\frac{3}{4}$  rods, S.  $84^{\circ}$  E. 122 rods, till it strikes the Stockbridge line.



## Early Settlements in Berkshire County.

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ONE hundred years, and more, elapsed after the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, 1620, December 21, before Western Massachusetts began to be settled. The rush of immigration to New England ceased about 1640. About 1636, the settlement of the Connecticut River towns began, and they continued along the river to grow for 30 years; but for nearly half a century the new settlements moved no farther westward than the foot of Mt. Tekoa. During this period the population of New England increased only by the natural increase of families. The wars of the European monarchies involved the American colonies of France and England in the turmoil and horrors of sanguinary strife. The opening of new settlements, or plantations, as they were sometimes called, was delayed by the necessities of the military service demanded of the colonists, and by the dangers of exposure to the predatory and bloody incursions of a savage foe. The Indian tribes of southern New England were so thoroughly subdued in King Philip's war, as it is called, 1675 and 1676, that very little trouble was experienced from them after that period. But in the first French war, 1690-1697, or King William's, the Indians that were in alliance with the Canadian military authorities made various attacks upon the frontier settlements, as they did also in the second French war, or Queen Anne's, 1702-1713. Besides this hindrance to settlement from fear of the Indians, other obstacles presented themselves in the uncertainty in regard to the boundary between Massa-

chusetts and New York ; and in the broken, mountainous character of the region.

1722, January 30, Joseph Parsons and 115 others, Thomas White and 59 others, inhabitants of Hampshire county, petitioned the General Court for two townships of land situated on the Housatonic river, at the southwestern corner of the Massachusetts Patent. The petition was granted, and a committee appointed 1722, June 29, to lay out two townships, each seven miles square. This committee were authorized to make grants of the land to actual settlers, each grantee paying the committee 30s. for every 100 acres. This sum was to be used in buying Indian titles, and paying expenses of surveying. The remainder was to be "improved in building meeting-houses in said townships." The Indians, whose home was at Stockbridge and in that vicinity, sold for £460, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum, their title to what is now the southern half of Berkshire county. The deed, dated 1724, April 25, included part of what is now the town of Lee (the Hoplands). The western boundary of the whole territory purchased was the New York Colony Line ; the southern, the dividing line from Connecticut ; the eastern, four miles from the Housatonic, extending northward "in a general way ;" while the northern line was "to the Great Mountain," now known as Rattlesnake mountain. This territory, known at first as "the Upper and Lower Housatonic Townships," was surveyed into lots for settlement. In 1731, the boundary lines were established, and settlers began to pour in. Liberal grants of land were made by the General Court to individuals. Many public men were voted such gratuities. In January, 1733, the lower township was incorporated by the name of Sheffield. This was the first town settled and incorporated in what is now Berkshire county. The upper township was set off 1742, January 13, as the North

Parish in Sheffield, and incorporated as a town under the name of Great Barrington, 1761, June 30.

In 1735, a road was cut from Westfield to Sheffield, and was for fifty years the traveled road from Springfield to the Housatonic and the Hudson. 1735, January 15, the General Court ordered that four contiguous townships should be laid out upon this road, and joining either Sheffield, or the Suffield Equivalent. This last was so named originally from its being the territory granted to the proprietors of Suffield, Conn., for land taken from them in establishing the dividing line between Massachusetts and Connecticut. It was afterwards called Glasgow, but when incorporated, 1741, April 10, received the name of Blandford. The four townships were for a long time designated numerically. Tyringham was Number One; New Marlborough, Number Two; Sandisfield, Number Three; Becket, Number Four.

It will be noticed that the territory surrounding Lee was settled thirty years before any settlement was made in this town. Stockbridge was incorporated 1739, June 22, as an Indian town, six miles square, taking off a strip 770 rods in width from the north line of Great Barrington, or the Upper Housatonic Township, as it was then called. Lenox and Richmond originally (1765, June 20) constituted one town to the north of Stockbridge, with a considerable territory intervening; that is, the southern line of Lenox was originally much farther north than the present. The western and eastern sections of Richmond, bought by Samuel Brown, Jr., of Stockbridge, in 1760, of two Stockbridge chiefs, Ephraim and Yokun, before its incorporation under the name of Richmond, were called respectively Mount Ephraim and Yokuntown. The eastern section, or Yokuntown, was incorporated as the district of Lenox, 1767, February 26, and was so called from the family name of the Duke of Richmond. The west-

ern part, or Mount Ephraim, of the original purchase, retained the original name of the town, Richmond. Mount Ephraim was not the name of the territory of Lee, or any part of it. What is now included in the township was "The Hoplands," originally the north-eastern part of Great Barrington; the western part of Hartwood, now Washington; the Glassworks Grant; a part of Larrabee's Grant; and a part of the Ministers' Grant, or Williams' Grant, as it is variously called.

#### INDIAN OCCUPANTS.

The Indian claimants to this whole region can hardly be called occupants or owners. They were of the Mohegan race, or in the Indian pronunciation, the Mu-h-he-ka-new, "the people of the waters that ebb and flow," indicating their proper home along the shores of the Hudson and the Connecticut. They are also designated the Stockbridge tribe, from the English name of their principal settlement; or the Housatonic tribe, from their residence in the valley of the Housatonic, "the river among the mountains." One of the earliest of the many forms of this river's name is that given by Hubbard, "Ausotunnoog," in his Narrative of Indian Wars. Smith, in his History of Pittsfield, Vol. i, p. 20, gives a Dutch origin to the name of the river, as if Housatonic were an Indian variation of "Westenhock," or West corner. In the Pittsfield Registry, Vol. ii, p. 12, is a deed from "Masinamake, *alias* Solomon, one of the Maheckander Indians," 1738, Sept. 11, to Jacob Wendell, of land "10 miles above the Hoplands in the upper town at Housatonic, on both sides of Westenhock, *alias* Sheffield River." In Vol. ii, p. 172 of the Pittsfield Registry, is a deed, dated 1763, Jan. 12, in which, for £1,800, the title to all land in Berkshire County not covered by previous purchases, is sold to the General Court by "Benjamin Kohhka-



wenaunaut, Chief Sachem of the Mohhekunnuck River Indians, or Housatonic tribe" and others named "Indian Hunters and claimers of the Lands lying in the Western part of the said Province of Massachusetts Bay from the Great River called Hudson River on the West part and a river called Westfield River in the East part." (See also Council Records at Boston, Vol. xxiv, p. 603, 1763, Feb. 17.)

At the time of the first settlements in what is now Berkshire County, the Indians had been, as is supposed, greatly reduced from their former numbers. There were only about ninety in all in 1736. Some of the Mohawk tribe from New York were induced to come to Stockbridge in 1750, for the sake of the school and other advantages offered to them. They numbered 200 in 1747; 420 in 1785. At the close of this year last named they all removed to New Stockbridge, New York, on the Oneida reservation. Afterwards, in 1822, they went still farther West to Green Bay, Wisconsin; and in 1839, a portion of the tribe removed West of the Missouri, near Fort Leavenworth.

The war paint and feathers, blanket and moccasins had long been laid aside for the dress of the pale-faces, when the territory of Lee was opened to settlement. The manners and customs of the Indians, the success of the methods adopted for their localization and elevation, are told with interesting details by Miss Jones in her History of Stockbridge. They claimed as theirs by right of possession, a wide extent of territory, though they were few in number and did little more within the limits of their domain than hunt when the danger of starvation compelled them to exert themselves. Their claim to ownership was treated by the first settlers and by the Provincial authorities as valid. The Indian titles were extinguished by compensation paid and deeds of sale



signed and recorded. It would seem, however, that though there was no permanent Indian village, some few of the tribe visited the region now occupied by this village every Spring, and built here their rude wigwams, while for four or six weeks they made maple sugar from the trees in this neighborhood ; probably from the maple orchard that only a few years ago was to be seen just south of where the trotting park is now located. Capt. Enoch Garfield, grandfather of Hon. Harrison Garfield, when a boy came from Tyringham, where his father (Isaac Garfield first settled in Tyringham) then lived, to a five acre lot which had been cleared and mowed. He came four miles to look after cattle that were foddered from the hay which they had gathered and stacked. Having no cart they used a tree-top on which to draw the hay. Sundays they came only to fodder the cattle, not to spend the day chopping. Seeing smoke arising in this direction, young Garfield, then fourteen years old, came down to find an Indian wigwam just south of where the park now is. The old squaw, its sole inmate at the time, welcomed him hospitably and brought out from beneath her blankets some maple sugar and gave it to him. Crossing the river on a tree that had been felled to make a bridge, he found another wigwam near where the marble quarry now is. This is the first account we have, even in tradition, of this particular locality and of the first occupants of the present village. Mr. Garfield, when twenty-three years old, moved into the place and built a log-house where Mr. Nathaniel Bassett afterwards lived.

But before passing to the history of the first settlers, it may be well to complete what brief allusion remains to be made to the Indian race, and the tribe that once called this territory their home.

“There was a time when red men climbed these hills,  
And wandered by these plains and rills,  
Or rowed the light canoe along yon river,  
Or rushed to conflict armed with bow and quiver;  
Or 'neath the forest leaves that o'er them hung,  
They council held, or loud their war-notes rung.”

About the time Lee was settled, the number of the Indians had very much decreased. They fought on the side of the English colonists in the old French and Indian wars. At the battle of White Plains a full company of Indians took an active part, and then served all through the Revolutionary war. Another company acted as rangers near Boston. At Gen. Washington's order, a feast was given them at Stockbridge after the war closed.

“The Indian hath gone to his lonely grave,  
He slumbers in dark decay;  
And like the crest of the tossing wave,  
Like the wail of the blast from the mountain cave,  
Like the groan of the murdered with none to save,  
His people have passed away.”

#### THE HOPLANDS.

“The Hoplands” is the territory in the south part of the town which was originally a part of Upper Housatonic Parish, or Great Barrington. Its southern line is the south line of the town. “The northern line commences near the Stockbridge boundary, about half a mile north of William Blake's, running a little north of T. M. Judd's, and thence nearly with the road to the town-house and John Baker's in Cape street; thence southerly to the Tyringham line.” William Ingersoll owned about 1,000 acres in this tract, which was enough to furnish himself and each of his seven sons with a farm of no mean dimensions. The name, Hopland, is derived from the great quantity of hops that formerly grew wild upon the banks of the river which flows down from Tyringham.

Hopbrook, or North Tyringham, was left unsettled for more than twenty years. It appears from a Memorial presented to the General Court, 1773, June 15, (Mass. Archives, 143 : 77,) that through the malfeasance of David Ingersoll, whom the proprietors of Upper Housatonnuck Township had chosen clerk, their records were in utter confusion. A committee was ordered to proceed to Great Barrington, ascertain the facts, and recommend measures to remedy the difficulty. This committee arranged, so far as possible, the records which they found of divisions of lands. These, with some changes they recommended to the General Court, should be confirmed as valid. (Mass. Archives, 143 : 32). Forty Proprietors' Rights, owned by fourteen persons, covered the whole of the area of the upper township (22,120 acres). One right was allotted the first minister, one for the ministry, another for the school. David Ingersoll, father of William Ingersoll, had five rights, or one-eighth of this quantity. The papers of the Committee were destroyed or burned. 1749, July 18, the Hoplands were laid out and the meadows divided, one right being set apart for schools. 1750, April 12, there was another division, and, as before, land was set apart for school purposes. 1771, February 1, the school lands in this particular district were set apart for the benefit of people residing in the district. There were six different allotments of land, ranging from ten to forty acres at a time. The school rights reserved amounted in all to about 170 acres, which by the vote, mentioned above, became the exclusive property of the inhabitants of this district. Ensign William Ingersoll was a prominent man among the people of this district. His house was the work-house of Great Barrington from 1761 to 1769. The road from the Glassworks Grant, passing by Matthew Van Deusen's, passed Ingersoll's house 42 rods north-west of the river,

and after crossing this, passed Reuben Pixley's about 84 rods west from the crossing. (See Great Barrington town records, 1771, May 27.) A road was laid out at the same time from Isaac Davis' to the Stockbridge line. In 1761, May 18, Thomas Willcocks and John Hamblin were chosen petit jurors—immediately after the incorporation of Great Barrington. Reuben Pixley was a petit juror in 1765, and Matthew Van Deusen a collector in 1768. These names will be recognized as the names of the first citizens of Lee. In 1770, March 21, the people of the Hoplands very modestly requested of Great Barrington to be relieved "from paying Ministerial Rates, School Rates, and Highway Rates." The town records of Great Barrington, from 1771 to 1777, were not entered on the book, and the papers on which they were minuted, if they were minuted at all, are not to be found. But in the Massachusetts Archives, in connection with the papers relating to the incorporation of Lee, it is stated that the people of Great Barrington in town meeting, 1773, December 29, made no objections to the petition of the people on the Hoplands for incorporation as a town.

#### HARTWOOD OR WASHINGTON.

The eastern section of the present township of Lee was taken from what is now the town of Washington, previously called Hartwood. In 1757-8, Robert Watson, of Sheffield, aided and abetted by David Ingersoll, acting as his Attorney, claimed to have purchased of the Indians a tract of land now comprising the town of Washington, and part of the towns of Middlefield, Hinsdale, Lenox, "and Lee." The portion set off to Lee is marked on the east by the present town lines; on the west it may be traced, following a line beginning at the south-east corner of the Hopland district, running northerly to John



Baker's, thence westerly to near the present Town Farm, and thence northerly, following the road from the Town Farm to the Housatonic River.

The land was ostensibly purchased of Benjamin Kohke-wau-naut, John Pop-hue-hou-au-wah, and Robert Nung-hau-wot, chiefs of the Stockbridge tribe of Indians. It is said that a part of the consideration was to be in the "fire-water" of that day. This territory was called at first Watsontown, after the name of its purchaser.

Soon after this purchase, Mr. Watson sold his title to this grant to a company of sixty men, the most of whom resided in Hartford, Conn. This company divided their land into sixty-three shares, one for each of 60 proprietors, one for schools, one for the ministry, and one for the first settled minister. They also changed the name to Greenock, in memory of the Scotch town of that name, as Blandford, near by, was for a similar reason called Glasgow, by the Suffield company.

These proprietors soon found that Watson was insolvent and in jail, and had failed to fulfill the obligations to the Indians; and the Indians therefore retained their right to the territory of Greenock. The Company re-purchased it of the Indians 1760, July 10, paying them £179 in money; and then applied to the Governor of the Province to establish their title to their property.

Action on the above petition, presented 1762-3, January 13, was delayed till 1763, February 8, when the Governor and Council granted the petition, and changed the name of the town to Hartwood. The conditions of the grant "were that within the space of five years there should be sixty settlers residing in said Township, who shall each have a dwelling-house of the following dimensions: 24 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 16 feet posts; and have seven acres of land well cleared and fenced, and brought to English grass, or ploughed." They were also



to settle "a learned Protestant Minister of the Gospel in said Township within the time aforesaid." The proprietors met at Hartford, 1760, October 23, and authorized Dr. Norman Morrison, of Hartford, and Samuel Brown, Jr., of Stockbridge, to enclose with a possession fence, the north-west corner of the town land, now the northern part of the town of Lee. In 1761, the proprietors met at the house of Mr. Hezekiah Colyn, Jr., of Hartford, and rights were duly recorded. Besides residents of Hartford, others from Tolland, Wethersfield, Windsor, Enfield, and Suffield, appear as proprietors. 1762, June 29, they met at Springfield, at the inn of Luke Bliss, and accepted the report of the Committee for laying out the new plantation. 1763, March 28, John Walker, of Hartford, sold (Pittsfield Registry 2:105) one-third of Greenock, alias Hartwood, to Robert Henry of Albany, for £90. 1768, February 28, at the proprietors' meeting in Hartwood, the second division of the land was made. Subsequent business meetings of the proprietors were held in Lee. In accordance with their petition, 1808, April 8, their records are to be kept in Lee, and are now in the Town Clerk's custody. The old records were transcribed by Ransom Hinman, in 1853. One record, showing the vagueness of many of the titles is to the effect that 1788, April 14, as the line of Larrabee's Grant was not known, a Proprietors' Committee was authorized to give certain persons a quitclaim deed of land lying west of a certain definite line, said owners giving the Committee a quitclaim deed to all lands lying east of said line. The people of what is now Lee, seem to have been the first to ask for incorporation as a town. Their petition to that effect, 1774, January 6, was ordered by the Legislature to be communicated to the people of Hartwood. This had the effect of bringing out a counter petition from them 1774, May 25, asking for incorporation

as a town, with the boundaries as given in the original grant. The boundaries given in the act of incorporation, 1777, April 12, would indicate that they succeeded in securing this from the General Court. The original Western boundary of Hartwood as given in the petition, (see Holland's Hist. Western Mass. Vol. 2, p. 602) is "the east side of Glassworks Grant 550 rods to the north-east corner of said Grant, and east side of Housatonic River." But the petition of the Lee people seems to have been also granted, and by the boundaries given in their act of incorporation a few months subsequently, a part of Washington became a constituent part of the present town of Lee.

#### THE GRANTS: WILLIAMS', LARRABEE'S, GLASS-WORKS.

##### WILLIAMS' GRANT.

Three different special grants, or parts of them, were also taken by the act of incorporation of the town to constitute the township. The Williams' Grant, more commonly called the Minister's Grant, forming the north-west corner of the town, was a grant of about four thousand acres, made by the General Court, 1740, Jan. 21, to Col. Ephraim Williams of Stockbridge and partners.\*

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\* The Col. Williams mentioned above as the grantee of the Williams' Grant was not the founder of Williams College, as stated by Mr. Amory Gale in his History of Lee, but his father, one of the first four white settlers of Stockbridge. The mistake is a natural one, for both father and son had the same name and military title. Ephraim Williams, Jr., was born in Newton, near Boston, in 1715, and at the time of this grant, had done nothing in the way of public service which should entitle him to such a favor. In early life he followed the seas, but at the breaking out of the war against France and England in 1740, the year in which the Williams' Grant was made, he joined the army and distinguished himself as the commander of a company in the Canada service. At the close of the war (1748), he resided for a short time at Stockbridge, but never was much identified with Southern Berkshire. In 1750, the General Court, in consideration of his services, granted him two hundred acres of land in East Hoosack, now North Adams. On this grant was soon afterwards erected Fort Massachusetts, located between the villages of North Adams and Williamstown—then called West Hoosack,—and the head-quarters of Col. Williams after he was assigned to the command of the forts west of the Connecticut River. He was shot through the head the 8th of September, 1755, while heading a scouting party against the French and Indians near the south end of Lake George.

The whole transaction is a peculiar one, and reveals the shrewdness of the benevolent persons who took such good care of the affairs of the Stockbridge Indians. 1739, May 3, (Mass. Archives, xxxi, 238,) a memorial was presented to the General Court, representing that there was a piece of meadow owned by Williams and partners which the Indians would like to have. Williams offered to give it to the Indians if the General Court would grant him an equivalent\* in the unappropriated lands of the Province, but the number of acres bought is not specified. In 1739, June 15, a grant was made accordingly of 4,000 acres of land, which had been surveyed Feb. 10, 1739, by Oliver Partridge, "adjoining Westerly and Southerly on the Indian township on Housatonic River."

There must have been some surprise about the quantity of this "equivalent," but it was represented that the land consisted of very valuable meadow land, and the four thousand acres were wild. Besides this, it appears that Col. Williams had some partners in this transfer, five ministers, and Mr. Timothy Woodbridge, the schoolmaster of Stockbridge. In the Springfield Registry (Vol. M : 525) are articles of agreement and division, 1742, Jan. 20, between Mr. Williams and Mr. Woodbridge of Stockbridge, and Rev. Stephen Williams of Springfield, Rev. Samuel Hopkins of Springfield, Rev. Peter Raynolds of Enfield, Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton, Rev. Nehemiah Bull of Westfield, deceased, represented by Oliver Partridge of Hatfield. (Miss Elizabeth Partridge of Hatfield, was married in 1728, Feb.—to Rev. Mr. Bull. He died 1740, April 12, aged 38.) A very goodly array of names, a very respectable "ring" for those days or these days. A plan of the land is

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\* The Stockbridge Indians affirmed that it belonged to the Shawanose. Williams and Woodbridge paid these Indians £15 for their title.

given in connection with the articles of agreement, from which it appears that Col. Williams had for his portion 900 acres lying around Laurel Lake. The ministers following along in order northward had each a lot of 480 acres, while flanking the last three ministers' lots, Mr. Partridge had a lot of 700 acres. In the Springfield Registry (Vol. M : 420), 1741, Nov. 3, Timothy Woodbridge of Stockbridge, school-master, deeds his lot, which then measured 510 acres, to Isaac Williams of Goshen, Hartford Co., Conn., "Husbandman alias Shoemaker," for £280. It had grown in value and in size very quickly. In the same volume (M : 475) is the deed of Williams and his partners, 1741, Jan. 21, in return for the "4,000 acres granted by the General Court," of 280 acres of land in Stockbridge to Paul Umpeckhow, Nicholas Uwaanmut and other Indians. In various papers in the Massachusetts Archives (118 : 132) as also in the old deeds of the Springfield and Pittsfield Registries, this "Williams' Grant" is called "the Ministers' Grant." 1750, Oct. 24, Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton sold 240 acres of the Ministers' Grant to Elizer Dickinson of Stockbridge, Joiner, in exchange for the same amount of land in Stockbridge. 1769, Aug. 25, Timothy Edwards sold all his father's remaining right in the Ministers' Grant to Joseph Woodbridge for £328. Most of this grant was annexed to Lenox, 1770, Nov. 20. That belonging to Col. Williams is the part that was taken to help form the present township of Lee.

(2.) Larrabee's Grant was located in the neighborhood of Lenox Furnace. A long controversy was waged with the town of Lenox in regard to the rightful boundaries of this tract terminated, 1818, May 4, by a vote of Lee that Lenox should have it, if the town should see fit to agree to the proposition made. The Legislature, 1820, Feb. 7, established what has now been the boundary line for about



fifty years. John Larrabee was the officer in command of "Castle Williams," the one fort which was supposed to afford sufficient protection to Boston harbor. In 1739, May 30, after a service of seventeen years at the fort, he petitioned the General Court for special addition to his pay. He had a family of six persons dependent upon him. His wages had been barely sufficient for his own subsistence. He had not been able to provide for his children. The Legislature, 1739, June 22, voted him £175 and a grant of 500 acres of the unappropriated land of the Province. 1740, Jan. 11, the plan of this tract, drawn by John Huston, Surveyor, in Dec. 1739, was presented to the General Court, accepted, and the land duly confirmed to Lieut. Larrabee, his heirs and assigns. He was a brother of Capt. Benjamin Larrabee, who had command of a fort at what is now Brunswick, Maine. John Larrabee died in 1761, and in 1762, Feb. 19, the General Court granted his heirs an additional £50 in testimony of his faithful services. The original petition is to be found in the Massachusetts Archives, Vol. xlvi : 108. The plan of the land shows its location on the east line of the grant made to Ephraim Williams and Company. Lenox was incorporated as a district, 1767, Feb. 26. Its southern boundary was changed 1770, Nov. 20, before Lee was incorporated. In very ambiguous phrase the Legislature annexed to Lenox all the lands and persons living on the south line of Larrabee's Grant as protracted west of the Housatonic River, and also Samuel Whelpley and his farm, jutting south of this grant and the Stockbridge line. (Deacon Samuel Whelpley was the father of Rev. Samuel Whelpley, a Presbyterian minister, the author of a "Compend of Ancient and Modern History" and the "Triangle," a celebrated theological treatise on the three points of old school Calvinism.) These facts account for the irregularity of the



line between Lenox and Lee. Lenox claimed east of the River to the south line of Larrabee's Grant. Lee claimed that the River was the boundary fixed by the Act of 1770. 1820, March 6, the selectmen were instructed to petition the General Court to fix the bounds of Lee and Lenox, near Lenox Furnace, as agreed upon by the committees of both towns. That agreement, as recorded, 1818, May 4, reads:

"Beginning at reputed S. E. corner of Lenox about 18 rods west of the Housatonic River: thence northerly a parallel line with the west line of Larrabee's Grant until the line shall reach the middle of the said river above the furnace: thence northerly in the middle of the said river as far as the north line of said grant."

(3.) Before its incorporation, the present territory of Lee village was commonly designated Glassworks, or Glassworks Grant. This was a tract of land, in what is now the center of the town, granted by the General Court, 1754, January 16, to John Franklin and Company, of Germantown in Braintree, now Quincy, Mass. It appears from the Suffolk Registry, (Vol. 80: 169) that in 1750, August 8, Col. John Quincy leased to a company consisting of John Franklin, merchant, Norton Quincy, merchant, Peter Etter, stocking-weaver, Joseph Cullins and Isaac Winslow, merchants, of Boston, 100 acres of land on Shed's Neck, at 10s per acre. They proceeded to lay out streets and building lots, and to begin what we would now call a manufacturing village. A company of Germans, skilled artisans, were induced to emigrate to this country, and to locate on this land, the proprietors holding out inducements for the establishment of various industries. They called their estate Germantown, and in 1752, August 24, Joseph Palmer and Richard Cranch, card-makers of Boston, (see Suffolk Registry, 81: 109) leased seventeen lots on Hanover Square, Hague, Zurich,

and Manheim Squares at a yearly rental of 5s for each lot. 1750, April 12, and June 6, (see Mass. Archives, 50 : 355) William Bowdoin and Nathaniel Holmes of Boston, petition for a grant of land if they begin glass-work in five years. 1752, November 27, Isaac Winslow, for himself and his partners, asked of the General Court, assistance to enable them to carry on the manufacture of glass at Germantown. They had leave to prepare a bill, granting them the monopoly of glass-making for twenty years. It is to be found in Mass. Archives, Vol. 59 : 376. The General Court, however, did not see fit to enact the bill, when presented, 1752, December 1. The next move was a petition, 1753, December 19, of John Franklin and Company, for "a grant of money to encourage the making Potash." 1754, January 16, the petitioners were granted 1,000 acres in any part of the unappropriated lands of the Province, provided that they carried on the manufactories at Germantown for the space of seven years from the date of this vote. Twelve of their workmen were to be exempted from military duty or other public service. The manufactories named were weaving, making cider, glass-making, pottery, and as appears from a petition of Josiah Quincy, of Braintree, 1752, December 12, also, "refining Sperma Coeti, from the Oyl, and making the same into Candles." In the Mass. Hist. Soc. Library is a History of Quincy by George Whitney, published 1827. On page 28, he says: "Had they met with no discouragement, and been permitted to continue, there is good reason to believe the place would now have been thickly settled and in a flourishing condition. Continual impediments to their success were thrown in their way." Most of the Germans left and went to "Broadbay Plantation, incorporated 1773, as the town of Waldboro," Me. Here they were imposed upon anew, and when by their patient industry the town had taken form and they began

to feel at home, they learned that they had no valid title to the land they occupied. Again, they were obliged to abandon house and land. It is said in the History of Waldboro, that most of them went to North Carolina. 1756, May 28, Joseph Palmer petitioned the General Court for assistance "by Way of Lottery," in view of the losses and embarrassments in connection with the manufactories at Germantown. (See the New Englander, 1839, January, for an interesting account of Gen. Palmer.) 1757, January 25, the council voted to dismiss the petition, but the House of Representatives was in favor of granting it, and 1757, February 12, the bill legalizing the lottery was passed to be enacted, and permission was given for the use of the Hall of Representatives for the purpose of drawing the lottery! Truly, an accommodating Legislature. When the Glassworks Company made a survey for their grant, they selected the then unappropriated land between the Ministers' Grant and the Hoplands, extending up along side of the Ministers' Grant and beyond it. They modestly asked that as the plat surveyed included about 64 acres more than the 1,500 voted to them, that the whole tract surveyed might be confirmed to them, which was done 1755, January 9. They bought the Indian title 1757, April 27, of two Indians of Stockbridge, John Pop-hue-hou-au-wah and Robert Nung-hau-wot. As James Bowdoin of Boston owned one-sixth of the Upper Housatonic Township, it was probably through information given by him, that the grant was located as it was, just north of the Hoplands. (Spfld. Reg. 1: 25.) Of this grant, Pelatiah West and Joseph Hatch, of Tolland, Conn., became large, if not sole owners. 1769, January 22, they bought (Pittsfield Register, 8: 118) of James Bowdoin, Isaac Winslow, and Thomas Flucker, fifteen-twenty-fourths ( $\frac{15}{24}$ ) of the Glassworks Grant for £520 16s. A plan of the tract of 1,564 acres is given showing that

it extended from Stockbridge line east of the Housatonic to the western line of Hartwood, and lay south of the Ministers' Grant and Larrabee's Grant and north of the Hoplands. Eleazer West also owned a part, according to a deed dated 1768, March 23 (Pittsfield Register, 6 : 202). One-sixth of the Glassworks Grant was bought 1771, June 6, by Pelatiah West, and Joseph Hatch, of Norton Quincy, of Braintree.

#### INCORPORATION.

1774, January 6, the people living on the Hoplands, and on a part of Hartwood (now Washington) and those on the Glassworks Grant, and the Williams' Grant, petitioned the General Court to be incorporated as a Town or District. (Mass. Archives 118 : 742.) 1774, February 18, the General Court voted that the petitioners should notify the Hartwood people of their desires. 1773, December 29, Great Barrington in town meeting had voted that they would raise no objections. But 1774, May 25, Hartwood people petitioned for an act of incorporation keeping what they called "the original bounds." Hartwood was not incorporated till 1777, April 12. October 17, 1777, a Bill was introduced incorporating the town of Lee, in accordance with the boundaries originally given. Some amendments were introduced, and the Bill was passed to be enacted. It was signed by the Governor the same day, and Lee became a town 1777, October 21. It is said that the two towns had the choice of the two names, Washington and Lee. Gen. Lee was at the time thought to be the best officer in the American army, and the people of Lee desired to have the new town named in honor of one from whom so much was anticipated.

#### NOTE ON GENERAL CHARLES LEE.

General Charles Lee was born in 1731, in Devonhall, Cheshire, England. He was the youngest son of Col.



John Lee, of the 44th Regiment. He is said to have received a commission when eleven years old; at twenty years of age, as Lieutenant in the 44th, he came to America, and in Braddock's campaign had his first experience of war. He became a Major in the 103d, and in 1772 was a Lieutenant Colonel on half-pay. He served under Burgoyne in Portugal in 1762, and distinguished himself in a night attack on a Spanish port. He was not promoted as fast as he thought he deserved, and became one of the aides of the King of Poland, and in 1769 a Major General in the army. He led for three or four years a roving life in Southern Europe. Returning to England he wrote newspaper articles against the ministry. He came to America, in October, 1773. Here he talked and wrote against the measures of the English Court. He was present at the session of the first Continental Congress, and in 1775, Congress, under the impression of his supposed military ability, appointed him 2d Major General, a rank which placed him next but one to Washington. Only providential interposition prevented him from betraying the cause he had professed to espouse. It seems as if he wanted only an offer of money and position under the English Government corresponding to the high rank he had sought in the Continental Army. Congress undertook to indemnify him for any supposed loss in the resignation of his position in the English Army by a donation of \$30,000, and sent him to the Southern States as Chief Commander in that department. His plans when in command, all proved disastrous failures. He was taken prisoner while dawdling away his time in a tavern, though he had always boasted he would never be taken alive. He was exchanged in May, 1778, for General Prescott. His insubordination to General Washington is well known, and Washington's indignant rebuke of him for his ordering a retreat instead of a charge



at the battle of Monmouth. Tried by a Court Martial, he was suspended from his command. An insolent letter that he wrote to Congress was followed by his dismissal from the service ; and soon after this he died in Philadelphia, 1782, October 2. At the time Lee was named in his honor, the gallant defence by Moultrie, of the harbor of Charleston, S. C., June 28, was erroneously attributed to General Lee, and put in unfavorable contrast with the defeats on Long Island and White Plains, where Washington had command.

There are eight or ten other towns in the United States bearing this name, and four or five counties, but none so named by emigrants from this town in honor of their former home. Lee was the twenty-first town incorporated in Berkshire County. Those incorporated at an earlier date, were, Sheffield 1733, Stockbridge 1739, Great Barrington 1742 (as a parish), New Marlborough 1759, Egremont 1760 (district), Pittsfield 1761, Tyringham 1762, Sandisfield 1762, Becket 1765, Richmond 1765, Lanesborough 1765, Williamstown 1765, Lenox 1767, Peru (Partridgefield) 1771, Windsor (Gageborough) 1771, Alford 1773, Otis (Loudoun) 1773, West Stockbridge 1774, Hancock (Jericho) 1776, Washington 1777, Lee 1777. At the session of the General Court in May, 1761, the western part of old Hampshire County was set off as a new county, after 1761, June 30, to bear the name of Berkshire. The Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions were held at the Upper Parish (now Great Barrington) and at Pontoosuc (now Pittsfield). County buildings were erected at Great Barrington, but in 1784, it was ordered that the Courts should be held at Lenox. But the County buildings were not erected at Lenox, without opposition, and not completed till 1790-1792. Numerous efforts were made to change this location, Lee every time voting against it, in 1813, 1824, 1825, 1855.

In 1875 the attempt was finally successful, and new County buildings were erected at Pittsfield, where also now the Courts are held. Joseph Whiton, of Lee, was one of the Associate Justices of the Court of Sessions, 1814-1817, and 1819-1828.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS AND THEIR LOCATION.

The territory south of Lee had been settled thirty years; Stockbridge, on the west, twenty years, before any English settlement on the land within the present township lines of Lee. In 1760, Isaac Davis came from Tyringham. He located himself quite in the south part of the town on the banks of Hop Brook, and built the first frame house in town, on the farm now owned by Henry McAllister. He died at Chenango, August, 1801. Reuben Pixley, son of Jonathan Pixley of Great Barrington, also located in the Hoplands, and gave his name to Pixley's Mountain. He built where the late Deacon Nathan Bassett lived, on the farm now owned by Hon. Harrison Garfield. John Coffey, the Irishman, settled on the farm lately occupied by James H. Royce. Hope Davis, from Tyringham, located in the old orchard, about 46 rods east of Messrs. May's paper mill. Aaron Benedict and George Parker settled near him.

William Chanter, the Quaker, had been a Quaker preacher on the Cape, but silenced for some irregularity. He lived on what is now called the Snow farm, adjoining Deacon Culver's. He died September 10, 1806, aged 82 years.

Mr. Atkins took up his abode nearly opposite the old Shaylor tavern in Cape street. Lemuel Crocker, from Barnstable, found a home where Wm. Perry now resides. Asahel Dodge located north of the old Barlow house. He was a blacksmith, and the stone he used for an anvil is now part of a stone wall near the site of his shop.

Samuel Stanley was a tanner and currier, and had his shop in a lot now belonging to Marshall Foote, which Stanley bought in 1779, June 16, of John Coltraine, of Tolland, Conn., who had bought the 114 acres of John Baker, Jr., of Tolland.

When John Winegar came into town in 1770, he found only thirteen families living on this territory. He bought 1771, April 4, of Pelatiah West and Joseph Hatch, 50 acres on the west side of the Housatonic River. Peter Wilcox, at whose house the first town meeting was held, lived in "a log-house with only one room in it, and that not so large as some of our parlors." It was on what is now Main street, corner Franklin street, where now stands the house owned by Elizur Smith, and occupied by Thomas Wilson.

Jonathan Foote\* occupied a rude structure where

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\*In the Foote "Genealogy" and in Gale's History of Lee, it is stated that Nathaniel Foote, the grandfather of this Jonathan Foote, put Charles the Second, King of England, into an oak to shield him from his pursuers. Afterwards, when the King was in a situation to do so, he remembered his preserver, and granted him a tract of land in Connecticut. The Foote family have for their coat of arms, a design representing an oak and Charles the Second, and Nathan Foote endeavoring to assist Charles into the oak. There is a well remembered couplet in the old Primer :

" The Royal Oak, it was the tree,  
That saved his Royal Majesty."

The story of the oak is pleasant and plausible, but Mr. H. W. Taft of Pittsfield himself a descendant of the hero of the story, and an expert antiquarian, desires that we should refute it, and we can do no better than insert his letter :

PITTSFIELD, August 31, 1877.

*My Dear Sir:*—Won't you try to put an end to that absurd and impossible story about the Foote emigrant ancestor, helping King Charles into the oak, etc. At least see to it that it don't get into the Lee History, and so start out on a new tour. I think it is dead sometimes, and then it starts off as good as new, to my infinite disgust, for he was my ancestor, and I don't want him made game of, and history turned into fable. Here are two or three reasons why it can't well be true :

1. Nathaniel Foote, the emigrant and ancestor of the Lee Footes, was in Water-town before September, 1634, and never returned to England.
2. Charles 2d, the oak tree man, was born May 29, 1630. Put these two facts together.
3. Nathaniel Foote *died* in Weathersfield, in 1644, when Charles was about 14 years old.

Theron L. Foote now lives. Elisha Freeman owned the farm where his grandson, John B. Freeman, now lives. Two rude log huts stood near William Bartlett's present residence. In and around the present village site there were not five acres of cleared land. A log tavern, sixteen feet square, was erected about this time.

1771, April 4, Pelatiah West and Joseph Hatch sold to Richard Howk, of Kinderhook, 170 acres of land for £270. He afterwards bought other pieces till at one time he owned 1,000 acres. His son, Isaac Howk, resided on the place lately owned by John C. Stevens. His large Dutch barn gave to his homestead the name of the "Howk Barracks," and it served as a sort of landmark in this region. 1774, June 1, Josiah Yale, late of Wallingford, Conn., bought of William Andrus, of Lenox, 50 acres of the Williams' or Ministers' Grant. 1773, December 20, Jesse Bradley, of New Haven, Conn., bought of Melatiah Hatch, of Hartwood, 24 1-2 acres with 1-4 of the saw-mill on the river, near Bradley street. Elisha Bradley, also, of New Haven, bought land in Stockbridge. 1774, May 25, William Ingersoll sold to Aaron Wormer, 45 acres in the Hoplands. Other names of those who came to town during this period are Ball, Backus, Barlow, Bassett, Gifford, Hamblin, Jenkins.

"When John Winegar was living at Crow Hollow, he was persuaded by an Indian to accompany him upon the mountain to hunt deer. The Indian soon left Mr. Winegar alone, and for three days in mid-winter, with the thermometer below zero, he wandered without fire or food, unable to find his home. When found by his friends, his

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4. The Battle of Worcester (*after* which Charles hid in the oak), was fought September 3, 1651, when Nathaniel Foote had been *dead* seven years.

5. Nathaniel was a Puritan, and if he had been *alive* and in *England*, would have been on Cromwell's side and not with Charles.

There are a great many more reasons, but perhaps these will do.

Yours truly,

HENRY W. TAFT.



feet and other parts of his body were so badly frozen as to cause him to be a cripple for life. He however recovered sufficiently to attend to his ordinary business." He was 29 years old at the time. He lost both his feet, and his constitution was shattered: yet he lived to be 55 years old, dying 1798, March 14.

"John Winegar built the first grist mill. It was erected a few rods above the Columbia paper mill. His log house, the eleventh log house in Lee, was built against a perpendicular rock on the east side of the road as we pass around the cove beyond the mill. That rock served as the back part of the house and chimney, which was so constructed that the wood could be drawn up on the hill in the rear, and precipitated down the chimney to the place for the fire. This process saved the time and labor of cutting and splitting the wood. Mr. Winegar five years after built another grist mill, where John McLaughlin's machine shop now stands, and he also erected the dwelling-house lately standing in front of it, which is the oldest building in town. When Mr. Winegar built this house, the nearest place that he could find stone for the cellar was on Pixley Mountain. The leaves and moss in the forests probably concealed the stone from public view."

#### FAMILIES FROM CAPE COD.

The Revolutionary War brought peculiar distress to the population of Cape Cod. Not only did they suffer the burdens of the war, such as fell upon the whole state, the drain of men and money, but their principal occupations, fishing and coasting, were almost entirely broken up. With the loss of all ordinary means of livelihood, and the constantly depreciating currency, they were compelled to seek some other location, where willingness to work and persevering diligence would be in themselves,



resources more valuable than money. Yet some money they seem to have had. 1780, May 2, John Crosby, of Barnstable, bought of Prince West, for £100 silver money, Lot No. 2 in Hartwood, 150 acres at the north-west corner of Sylvanus Gifford's land.

Marvelous stories, transcending any fish stories, had been carried to Cape Cod in regard to the fertility of the soil of the new lands on the Housatonic. It was averred that the soil was so rich that a sod hung up in the sun would drip grease: that hogs fattened so quickly that they ran around, squealing, "kill me! kill me!"

But the reality, was a hard and trying experience of obstacles and difficulties which only undaunted perseverance, strong arms and stout hearts could overcome. The snows were deep and lay long on the hill-sides. It was no easy matter to travel any distance, even with the aid of snow shoes.

When James Goodspeed came in sight of the log house where his Uncle Hamblin lived, he asked "Whose hog-pen is that with a chimney to it?" "Be quiet," was the reply; "that is where your uncle lives." The children were so thoroughly tanned by exposure to wind and sun, that he took them at first to be Indian papposes. Many are the family traditions, still handed down, though now known only to a few, in relation to these Cape Cod fishermen, and their perils by sea and land. The grandfathers of those who are now the grandfathers of this generation, told fifty years ago many grandfather's tales, that had for the young hearers of those days, and for all hearers in all time, that incommunicable charm which belongs to all first experiences. How they laughed, as with every narration, there came up the vivid remembrance of Joe Crocker, blown off by the gases from the dead whale into which he had thrust his spade, or the appearance of this region as they first visited it in the

hard Winter of 1780, and walked on snow shoes over snow eight feet deep.

The name of Cape Street was given to the eastern section of the town, because so largely occupied by people from Cape Cod. Capt. Joseph Crocker, who settled on the William Cone farm, moved his family from Cape Cod in an ox cart. He and his aged mother came in advance of the rest of the family, both riding upon the same horse.

The people lived in small log houses, mostly located upon the sides of the mountains. Marked trees served for roads, and a tree felled so as to fall across the river, served for a bridge, where such a contrivance was necessary or convenient.

When the later settlers came in, they adopted the easier method of sending their household articles by vessel to Hudson, N. Y., whence they could be transported with less time and fatigue to the new country. The first burial in the cemetery was of a child of Mr. Handy, who fell from a load of furniture. In crossing the river, the jolting of the cart as it struck a stone, threw her off. She fell on the stones, and was instantly killed. Some of the furniture brought from the Cape, is still in existence. Some of it has been put to strange uses; most of it has long ago been put out of the way. Grandmother Crosby would hardly recognize her old spinning wheel, or its rim, now honored in Mr. Henry Smith's house as a picture-frame for a photograph of one of Thorwaldsen's celebrated bas-reliefs, "Night and Morning."

Cape Street was for a time the most populous part of the town. Here lived the blacksmith, shoemaker, tanner and currier. Here it was proposed to build the meeting house. But "Dodgetown," as this section was then called, has seen a change come "o'er the spirit of its dream." The homes that once were established in loving

neighborhood on the hill-top, have now disappeared, or all fallen into ruin, save two or three. The roads that led to them, or led past them, have been discontinued. The unfrequent traveler over the mountain road is seldom seen, while the iron horse whizzes through the valley, and large manufactories afford employment to hundreds that the barren hill-sides could not feed.

Cornelius Bassett and Nathan Dillingham, in 1778, built the "Red Lion" tavern on what is now Mr. Pease's lot. It was occupied as a tavern stand till 1833. This was the first two-story house built in Lee, and in it was the first store, kept in the buttery. Job Hamblin went to Boston to get a load of salt, and it required forty days to make the journey.

Barlow and Bassett had together bought a farm in Sandwich, on a part of which is now the establishment of the Sandwich Glass Company. Through some chicanery they found themselves without any legal title to the property for which they had paid, as they supposed, a fair equivalent. Abandoning their old home, they came to this newly opened territory and built in this wilderness region. John Crosby, who came during this period, was the "house-wright and joiner," for the community generally. Some of the frames he put up are still standing. Timber was abundant, when rafters as commonly made, were seven inches in width by nine in depth.

John Freese, who married Desire Williams of Stockbridge, and was thus allied to "the blue blood" of Berkshire County, was a tailor and tavern keeper in Egremont, in 1776. He came to this town during the Revolutionary war and became a very large landholder. The house he first occupied stood near the present brick school-house of the first district in the Hoplands. He afterwards lived on the spot where is now Mr. Henry Smith's house. He owned that farm, and south across the river

to the top of Beartown Mountain. The road from South Lee to the present village then came up from the river as far west as the brick school-house. The Freese family were of Dutch descent, among the early settlers of Lunenburg, now Athens, N. Y. With real Dutch forethought, and quaint ideas of propriety, they brought with them from the old country, mahogany coffins and satin grave-clothes. The family name has entirely disappeared from the town, since their removal in 1814, to Brunswick, Ohio. Miss Sarah Goodspeed is the only immediate descendant left.

David Baker, long known as the shoemaker of the town, came into the place in 1783, from Barnstable. He had there done military duty in the early part of the Revolution. He married Sylvia Crocker, and on land given her by her father, John Crosby built a house for the newly-wedded pair. He lost largely by the Continental money. He gave a hundred dollars in bills for half a dozen cups.

James Percival, who came from the Cape, and built the lower part of the house where Captain Bradley once lived, went to Hudson on horseback by marked trees. The bag of pork he carried with him he exchanged for a bag of shad. The people from the Cape hankered after the fish, so long their customary food, and never relished the flavor of game. Job Childs came with Anthony Goodspeed from Barnstable, and spent the first night on the Crosby farm, where Mr. Gousset now lives. He worked at first for Mr. Van Dusen. Finally he bought of Reuben Pixley the farm, of which he sold half to Cornelius Bassett.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

It was not till two months after the act of incorporation, that in accordance with its provisions, the first town meeting was held 1777, December 22, at the house of



Peter Wilcox, a log-house with only one room. What the population was at that time cannot now be stated with any certainty; 45 signed the petition for incorporation, but between that date, 1774, Jan. 26, and the organization of the town in 1777, many others had doubtless come into town. Judging from the votes for governor, recorded during the first years, the number of persons resident in the place and qualified to vote, could not be much more than 40. There was, perhaps, a total population of about 200. William Ingersoll was Moderator of the first town meeting. Prince West was chosen Clerk. These two, with three others, Jesse Bradley, Oliver West and Amos Porter, were chosen Selectmen. William Ingersoll was chosen *Treasurer*; Reuben Pixley, James Penoyer, *Constables*; Daniel Church, Job Hamblin, John Nye, William Ingersoll, *Highway Surveyors*; Abijah Tomlinson, Samuel Stanley, *Tythingmen*; Samuel Stanley, *Leather Sealer*; William Ingersoll, Jesse Bradley, Oliver West, *Committee of Correspondence*.

1780, June 15, we find a record, indicating, probably, an evident increase in the voting population of the town. Having met according to the warrant, the first vote passed was to adjourn for eight minutes to meet in Peter Wilcox's barn. The next place of meeting selected was Major Dillingham's tavern, and then "the meeting-house" (the Congregational Church).

The twenty-five offices named in the records of the first meeting were intrusted to twelve officials, offices now more desirable, though not perhaps any more eagerly sought, are in much smaller proportion to the number of office-seekers. But here were enough to give the town, from the start, a thorough organization, after the usual fashion of Massachusetts towns. The records of the first meetings do not show any very great literary skill, or knowledge of official routine. Not till 1814, is the



warrant for calling any town meeting entered upon record. It is often a matter of as much interest to know what business was proposed, as what was transacted. Meetings were first notified by posting a notice on the whipping post (near the meeting-house), chosen because of its location ; not because of suggestive appropriateness in the post itself. Notices were to be posted also at the two grist mills in the town. Not until 1816, is the giving notice of town meeting on the outside of the meeting-house and at the inn of Wm. Merrill, at the south part, sufficient. The cost of managing town affairs was ridiculously small, as compared with the present expenditures.

1783, March 3, voted to choose a constable by bidding downwards. Peter Wilcox, for £8, agreed to take the office. The chief duty was not the arrest of criminals, but the collection of the taxes. As money was scarce, and tax paying was no more agreeable then than now, the collection of the "rates" was not a specially desirable undertaking. The constable was personally responsible for the whole amount he was instructed to collect. Assessments were made for the different taxes at different seasons of the year. Farm laborers, engaged only for the Summer months, were disposed to slip out of town with their poll tax unpaid. It was no easier matter then than now, to adjust the proportionate share of public expenditures so that no class or no individual should possibly escape paying their proper proportion.

#### PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION.

The appointment of a Committee of Correspondence, so called, or more fully designated, of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, at the first town meeting, indicates that the organization of the town was at the beginning of the Revolutionary period of our national history. The battle of Lexington, the opening scene in this drama, was

fought 1775, April 19, two years and a half before the incorporation of the town, but the men of the Glassworks Grant were equally ready with those of the Hoplands, of Hartwood, and the incorporated towns of Berkshire county, to do their full share of military service. Many of them had taken active part in the French and Indian war from 1754 to 1763.

1780, June 19, the town voted "to come into a way to raise the men now called for." Each one was to have in hand £12 hard money. £108 were assessed, to be paid before January 1st. As a committee to raise the nine men required, the three commissioned officers of the militia company were chosen. July 11, two men to serve six months, were to have the same bounty other six months men had received. The three months men were to have 40s. per month hard money, in addition to their wages, or a "grain equivalent." This was to be raised "by way of fines" [on those who would not volunteer], and if the amount thus raised fell short, the town was to make up the deficiency. When, in connection with this, we take the fact that the whole vote cast for governor at this meeting numbered only 30, we can have some conception of the extent of the sacrifices our fathers were willing to make to secure for themselves and their children the priceless boon of liberty.

1780, November 2, under a requisition from the State authorities, demanding from each town a certain number of pounds of beef for the army, it was voted to raise for this purpose £55 in silver money. The straits to which the people were driven appear evident from the fact that in 1781, January 20, the three months men and six months men were to receive orders on the Treasurer for their bounty. £6,818 were to be assessed, but grain was to be received in payment at fixed prices. Wheat was valued at 47s. per bushel, rye 40, Indian corn 26, oats 27.

The depreciated Continental money had almost ceased to have any value. As General Washington is reported to have said, it took a wagon load of money to purchase a wagon load of provisions. So grievous were the burdens that it was voted to send a petition to the General Court, seeking some redress.

1781, July 14, five men were to be enlisted from this town as its quota for reinforcing the Continental army. The town, for this purpose, was divided into four classes, each class to raise one man, and the fifth man to be raised by the town at large, to have the rank of sergeant. . After a similar fashion, the town voted to comply with the requisition made for beef for the army; six classes were each for themselves to provide their equal proportion of beef. August 28, it was voted to raise £42 to pay for three horses bought by the selectmen, for the use of the State.

From the Revolutionary Muster-Rolls in the Secretary's Office at Boston, it appears that all through the period of the war the men of Lee were often called out for duty as soldiers in the militia, and a goodly number served a three years' enlistment in the Continental Army. In Col. Patterson's Regiment, under Capt. W. Goodrich and Ensign Isaac Davis, 6 men from Glassworks, and 1 from Hoplands served 8 months from May 5, 1775, (Roll 15 : 14), Nathan Bennett, Jesse Clark, Fenner Foote, Josiah Root, Benjamin Fuller, John Percival, from Glassworks : and Nathan Davis from the Hoplands. In 1776, May 4, in the list of officers of the militia, in Berkshire County, we find Capt. Jesse Bradley and Lieutenants Levi Nye and Elisha West, with 20 men from Glassworks. (Roll 42 : 177). The only instance of reluctance to render ready service at the call of the authorities, is when under Col. Simonds, of Williamstown, a detachment of Berkshire Militia were ordered to reinforce the Northern

Army, May 1, 1777. There were 8 privates from Glassworks who refused to march. (Roll 42 : 202.)

They were not in this, acting in any very singular manner: for the militia were called out just at planting time, and food for their families was as pressing a duty as the country's call in its hour of need. Out of 345 men called out, 60 refused. There were others who went, whose names appear in Capt. Aaron Rowley's Company. Later in the year, 1777, July 8, in Capt. Job Woodbridge's Company that marched from Stockbridge, are the names of several men from Glassworks. A whole company, not all from Lee, under Capt. Jesse Bradley, were mustered into service 1777, July 20, in Col. John Brown's Regiment. Still others are to be found in Capt. Oliver Belden's Company, who enlisted 1777, September 21. It will be remembered that it was about this time the Battle of Bennington was fought, 1777, August 16. The Berkshire Militia constituted no small part of Gen. Stark's forces on that occasion. They participated also in the hardships and perils of the campaign that ended so gloriously in the surrender of Burgoyne, 1777, October 17. In the list of officers under date of 1778, April, Jesse Bradley appears as Captain, Amos Porter, First Lieutenant, and Theophilus Mansfield, Second Lieutenant. The names of men from Lee are given also in the pay-roll of Capt. Enoch Noble's Company, who served at Peekskill N. Y., 8 months from May 15, 1778. In this year there was, 1778, August 16, an alarm at Bennington, and the militia were ordered out to defend their homes against a supposed invasion. Lieutenant Ezekiel Crocker was the officer in command. In 1779, April 1, a committee appointed by the Legislature report 9 men from Lee in the Continental Army. 1779, July 16, the muster-master at Springfield acknowledges three men from Lee, whose descriptive list gives their names and ages, as Jedidiah



Crocker 18, Braddock Williams 20, John Ellis 17. These were in Capt. Bradley's Company, in Col. Rossiter's Regiment. 1780, January 4, the Selectmen of Lee, Jesse Bradley, Amos Mansfield, and Josiah Yale certify the payment of 11 men for 6 months' service from date. 1780, August 29, nine others are registered as belonging to the new levies for 6 months. So peremptory was the demand for men, that the Legislature passed a law, 1780, June 22, to raise immediately 4,726 men. If any man was drafted who could not pass muster, he was to hire some able-bodied man to take his place, or pay a fine of \$150.00 within 24 hours. 1780, October 18, there was another false alarm in Berkshire, and Capt. Amos Porter's Company of 25 men started out with ready courage to ward off the supposed peril. In 1781, enlistments grew to be so infrequent that in accordance with an act passed 1780, December 20, the town was divided into 4 classes, (1781, June 1,) each class to raise its quota by bounties offered, or by volunteers. These four classes raised, as the selectmen certify, £240, hard money. In the same volume are the receipts of men who had received the bounty offered. Six of them joined Capt. Porter's Company, in Col. Rossiter's Regiment. Again alarm came from the northward, from near Stillwater, and the militia companies (Roll 23: 186) of Lee and Lenox marched at once under Capt. Josiah Yale on what proved to be another false alarm. Others marched also with equal promptness, enlisted in Capt. John Bacon's Company: others still (Roll 21: 175) enlisted in Capt. Thomas Ingersoll's Company.

Nathaniel Bassett was born at Sandwich, January 27, 1757. At the age of 17 he joined a Volunteer Company of 50 in his native town, who hired some one from Boston, at their own expense, to teach them military tactics. The troubles with England were then evidently coming



to a crisis, and young Bassett ardently espoused his country's cause. When the news of the battle of Lexington reached Sandwich, the company were soon on their way to Boston. They had not gone far before news came that the British had retreated, and the company returned. Their services were soon needed for the defence of the coast. Their duties were performed voluntarily, without compensation. In the course of the year, young Nathaniel Bassett entered the regular service under Captain Elisha Nye. He was stationed on Dorchester Heights, and was in the first boat-load under Major Sprout to take possession of the fort abandoned by the British. He shipped on board the privateering brig "Cobbett," but to escape the British ship "Milford," the brig was run ashore on the coast of Nova Scotia. The shipwrecked crew suffered great hardships in making their escape, but Bassett finally reached home only to enlist at once in the army. He was stationed at Boston and Providence in '77, under Captain Palmer. In '80, the urgent necessity of his country once more called him to military duty. He had been up the Hudson and across the country to Berkshire County, and here hired out to a blacksmith. Learning of his knowledge of the military art, his employer offered to give him his time if he would enlist. He was ordered in the first place to Great Barrington, thence to Claverack, and finally to West Point. He was so much better acquainted with tactics than his captain was, that he acted as prompter as well as drill-master. In pursuance of Arnold's plan to scatter the troops and thus weaken the place, he was sent one of a company of sixty men under Lieutenants Walker and Tafts to Verplanck's Point. Here Mr. Bassett with a few comrades, dragged a cannon through the woods to the river's brink, and commenced firing on the British ship "Vulture," which had brought Andre from New York to consult with Arnold.

This caused the vessel to drop down the river, and so necessitated Andre's crossing the river and attempting to reach New York by land in disguise. His capture followed and Arnold's flight. Mr. Bassett saw Arnold as he passed in a boat to embark on the "Vulture." About 1780, Mr. Bassett became a resident of Lee, and in his death (1845) all felt that they had lost one devoted to the public good and interested in the highest welfare of the community and of individuals.

Lemuel Barlow, who came to town in the Spring of 1775, went in July as a soldier, but did not serve long enough to secure a pension. Captain Jesse Bradley was his captain. Captain Bradley's papers were burned after his death, and the record of many important facts was destroyed.

John Percival is remembered as another Revolutionary soldier; Fenner Foote was one who shared the privations and perils of the disastrous expedition to Canada, in the Winter of 1776-7. A part of Colonel Patterson's command at Dorchester Heights, volunteered for the expedition to Quebec, under Arnold, up the Kennebec and through the wilderness. Fenner Foote used to say that he suffered more in this expedition than to have died twice.

"Cornelius Bassett was for a time engaged in privateering. He succeeded in capturing a prize, which brought him £100, and so desirous was he to keep up the credit of the State, that he invested the whole of this sum in the depreciating Continental money. Afterwards he exchanged it for a watch, which he gave for the place now owned by Sheriff Pease."

"Captain Amos Porter was a resolute man. He was active in both the French and the Revolutionary wars. He expended a large share of his property in the support of his company; and when peace was declared, he led his

Company of sixty-four men up to Toucey's, and treated them each with a bowl of grog at \$60 a bowl, making a bill of \$3,840."

"Josiah Bradley (14 years of age), enlisted under Colonel Brown, and was at the battle of Fort Stanwix. In the confusion of the defeat, an Indian chased him for several miles, until at length he turned and fired in the direction of the Indian. Not being troubled any more with his pursuer, Mr. Bradley, through life, looked back to the event with some compunctions of conscience, fearing that he might have killed a man."

When Asahel Foote left the Revolutionary Army, he was a young soldier 16 years old and of a daring spirit. When he came to the bridge over the Housatonic River on West Park Street, only the string-pieces of the bridge were in place, but not a plank on them. In the darkness of the night he rode his horse safely over one of the string-pieces unconscious of the danger.

Joseph Handy served on the quota of Pittsfield in Captain Stoddard's Company, Colonel Vose's Regiment, three years from April 11, 1777. He enlisted on the quota of Lee, July 26, 1781, to serve three years. His widow was the first person supported by the town.

In 1841 there were six Revolutionary pensioners living in Lee whose names and ages were: Joseph Willis 82, Reuben Marsh 78, Nathaniel Bassett 84, Joel Hayden 78, Cornelius Bassett, 79, Levi Robinson, 78. All have now departed, but they still live in the example of courage and patriotism which they furnished posterity.

The Tories in Lee were few, and perhaps we ought to let their names rest in oblivion, but one incident so well illustrates the spirit of the times that we chronicle it. William Bradley, a brother of Captain Jesse Bradley, moved to Lanesboro. He was a Tory. When Captain Bradley went with his company to Bennington, he came

to his brother William's about dinner time, and the Tory was compelled to furnish dinner for the company, with the threat of pulling down his fence if the dinner was not promptly served.

#### THE SHAYS REBELLION.

By the long-continued war and the constant drain upon the energies and resources of the country, the people had become impoverished. The laws then in force unduly favoring the creditor, not as now the debtor, were additional causes of the general distress. The passage of the "Tender Act," 1782, July 3, only increased the evil it was designed to remedy, by making neat cattle and other articles a legal tender. In Lee, there was especial embarrassment arising out of the complications in the methods adopted towards the close of the war, in raising men by classes, and paying the large bounties demanded. The people of Berkshire had been the first at the outbreak of the Revolution to close the courts. There had been "no Probate Courts from 1774 to 1778, and during the last two of these years no deeds were recorded." Not till 1779, did Berkshire County people consent, and then only by a small majority of the convention, to have this legal machinery put in operation. When the Courts were re-opened and the severities of the law began to press heavily upon the people, a spirit of discontentment and revolt was easily fomented. Daniel Shays, who had been a Captain in the Continental Army at West Point, but involved in some questionable pecuniary transactions and dishonorably dismissed, put himself forward as a ring-leader in the disturbances. He has given his name, but no enviable fame to the series of acts of mob violence and misguided opposition to law, known in our history as the Shays Rebellion. Mr. Gale tells the story of the part taken during this period by some of the people of this



town, not to the advantage of their reputation for moral sense or courage, but the great majority of the insurgents were doubtless honest men. The war had demoralized society in a measure, and poverty goaded them on to acts of violence on which, in other circumstances, they would have frowned.

In the Autumn of 1786, early in September, a party of the insurgents, 800 in number, assembled at Great Barrington, broke up the Court and opened the jail. Major Gen. Lincoln was put in command of a body of 3,000 militia ordered to rendezvous at Worcester. 1787, January 19, 1,200 militia under Gen. Shepard, assembled at Springfield at the same time. Lincoln finding no occasion for delay at Worcester, pushed on to Springfield, dispersed the insurgents collected there under Shays, January 25, and scattered in flight from Petersham, February 4, the small remnants that rallied there. Then he pushed on to Berkshire County. Eli Parsons had 400 Berkshire malcontents under his command. February 15, he issued a circular calling upon his fellow-sufferers to resent unto relentless bloodshed, but the men who resented paying taxes or their honest debts, because they were so burdensome, were equally reluctant to part with any of their own blood in defence of their property. When the Lee men under Parsons saw the rabble that constituted the bulk of Shays' forces at Springfield, they were ashamed of their company, and immediately left for home. While Lincoln was on his march, 250 insurgents collected in the town of Lee to stop the Courts. "This company finally concentrated their forces on the Perry Place, on Cape street, now owned by Moses Culver. Gen. Patterson at the head of the Government forces came from Stockbridge, and took his position upon Mr. Hamblin's hill, on the opposite (the north) side of the Greenwater river. This hero had engaged Dr. Sargent, with a



company of assistants as the surgeons of his army. They occupied Lyman Foote's house: and while the army was preparing for battle, the surgeons were tearing up sheets and other linen for bandages for the wounded, preparing tables, blocks, and other necessary things pertaining to their work. Gen. Patterson's men had cannon, but the Shays' men had none. To supply this deficiency, they put Mrs. Perry's yarn-beam upon a pair of wheels, and drew it up back of the house. The ramrod and other appendages for cannon in actual service, were exhibited to their opponents in the most impressive way. The ignited tar-rope was freely swung in the air, and the men were running in every direction to put everything in order for battle: and when Peter Wilcox, their leader, with a stentorian voice, heard by their enemies, gave the order to fire, the gallant Patterson with his men fled for life before Mrs. Perry's old yarn-beam." This tradition must be received with some discount. In Dr. Field's history it is said, that the Shays' men dispersed under assurance from Gen. Patterson, that those indicted should be tried in their own county. Tradition affirms that Dr. Lewis of Stockbridge, who was present to act as surgeon, went freely from one party to the other, and acted as the ambassador of peace. Gen. Patterson was a brave and judicious man, and managed the affair with the purpose and hope of preventing any bloodshed.

"Peter Wilcox and Nathaniel Austin were arrested for treason, and cast into our County prison, where they lay for several months. Their wives were allowed to visit them occasionally, and carry to them articles of food. On one occasion, these women carried to their husbands a loaf of bread in which was concealed the saw used in amputating the frozen feet of John Winegar. Early the next morning, Wilcox and Austin having sawed off the irons upon their feet, passed out of prison, dressed in their wives'

clothes. When the jailor carried in breakfast to his prisoners, the men were gone, and in their place were the wives, in their husband's clothes. The women were soon after this released. Peter Wilcox repaired to a cave on Henry Bowen's farm, in the rear of the Academy, where his friends fed him till the civil authorities withdrew the prosecution. The cave to this day is known as "Peter's Cave."

Still another ludicrous affair has been commemorated in local tradition, and is told at length in Gale's History: "The house now occupied by T. L. Foote, was the headquarters of the Shays party for sometime after "Mother Perry's victory." Most of the Lee people sympathized with that party. The court party was strong in Stockbridge, and scouting parties from Stockbridge frequented the farm of Mr. Foote for the purpose of arresting those who had driven them from Hamblin's Hill. This became intolerable to the Shays' party, and they were determined to stop it. Lovisa Foote and Sarah Ellis, two young ladies of Lee, put on gentlemen's coats and hats, and with guns in hand, sallied forth in the first of the evening, when they saw two gentlemen riding upon horseback. On their arrival these girls ordered them to dismount: they refused at first, but on the presentation of the *unloaded* guns in the ladies' hands, with the assurance that if they did not obey, they should receive the contents of their guns, the gallant fellows dismounted. They were ordered to enter the house, and there it was ascertained that they were Ebenezer Jenkins, Jr., and Crocker Taylor, two young bucks of Lee, and intimate acquaintances of their captors. The Shays men were molested but little after this."

February 26, a numerous company of insurgents under Capt. Perez Hamblin, entered Berkshire County from New York, and the next day reached Stockbridge. There

they indulged in indiscriminate pillage. A portion became too drunk to proceed farther. The remainder began their march for Great Barrington with the prisoners they had taken. The debtors in the jail were all released. But the militia company of Sheffield had collected under Lt. Goodrich, and joined by the Great Barrington company, pushed on towards Egremont in pursuit, as they supposed, of the insurgent force. It turned out, however, that they themselves were the pursued, not the pursuers. When the fact was ascertained, a halt was ordered, and an attempt made to form in order of battle. But the insurgent forces came up in the temporary confusion, and opened fire. After a brief engagement, the insurgents turned and fled. Thirty of them were wounded; two killed outright. One of them was probably Ozias Wilcox, a son of Peter Wilcox of Lee, and a soldier of the Revolution, worthy of a better fate. He is said in the town records to have been killed at Sheffield, March 26, 1787.

This was the last display of force; in fact, the only actual fight during the Rebellion. The adjoining States took prompt measures for the suppression of any attempted mob violence, and for the apprehension of fugitives from Massachusetts. The Legislature of this State passed a law excluding from the jury box any guilty of favoring the Rebellion. Three Commissioners were appointed to grant indemnity to all concerned on their subscribing the oath of allegiance, excepting only those participants who had fired upon or killed any citizens. The Supreme Judicial Court, for the County of Berkshire, found six persons guilty of high treason and condemned them to death. One of these was Peter Wilcox, Jr., of Lee. None suffered the execution of the sentence. Four were pardoned. The punishment of the others was postponed, and finally remitted. An act of general

indemnity passed, 1788, June 13, is the final record of the extirpation of all rebellious sentiment. The names of several are recorded on the town books as having taken the oath of allegiance. It is said that when John Ellis, who lived at the Ingram place, was cited before Judge Walker, he turned the whole thing into a farce, repeating after the judge's administration of the oath, "You will say," etc, "*You* will say," "I solemnly swear," etc., "Solemn affair."

#### CONSTITUTION MAKING AND MENDING.

The State Constitution recommended by the Legislature of 1778-9, was rejected by the people. 1779, March 9, the town "voted that we hold ourselves bound to support the Civil Authority of this State for the sum of one year and Bound to obey the laws of this State." September 1, 1779, a Convention of Delegates elected by the people to make a Constitution and Frame of Government, met at Cambridge, and completed their labors 1780, March 2. The people ratified their work, and adopted the Constitution which has from that time been the organic law of the State.

At the Convention in Boston, 1788, January 9 to February 7, the United States Constitution, as adopted by the Convention which met at Philadelphia in May, 1787, was discussed and ratified. Capt. Jesse Bradley was the delegate from Lee.

In 1820, upon the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, a second State Constitutional Convention met at the State House in Boston, November 15, to make such a revision as was then rendered necessary. Of the fourteen amendments proposed, nine were ratified by popular vote. The town voted against the Convention, 8 to 57. The Convention proposed by the Legislature of 1851, was negatived by the popular vote, of 63,000 Yeas, and



66,000 Nays. The Convention which met May 4, 1853, proposed various amendments, all of which were rejected by the popular vote. At this Convention, Lee was ably represented by Hon. Samuel A. Hulbert. Under the provision of the Constitution, as revised in 1820, the Legislature has from time to time proposed various specific amendments which have been ratified by the people.

The union of the several States in the prosecution of the war for Independence had been authoritatively effected by the Articles of Confederation, adopted by a Congress of Delegates, 1777, November 15, though not ratified by all the States till 1781, March 1. The evils incident to so imperfect a bond of union became intolerable, and a Constitutional Convention was called to perfect a better national organization. After a session of four months, its work was completed, 1787, September 17. Massachusetts adopted the Constitution after careful deliberation, by a Convention of Delegates at Worcester, 1788, February 6. Rhode Island, last of all, voted in favor of its adoption, 1790, May 29. By its terms it went into operation in 1789, April 30, when General Washington was inaugurated the first President. Those who favored the centralizing spirit of the Constitution became known as Federalists. Those preferring a fuller recognition of State Sovereignty were called Republicans. The Federalists at first took office; but in 1800, Jefferson, the Republican candidate, was chosen President. He and his party favored the French, as the Federalists did the English. These two parties continued till 1820, when Monroe, the candidate of the Republican party, received every electoral vote but one. During these years Lee was one of the strongholds of Federalism.



## THE WAR OF 1812.

The growing importance and success of the mercantile and commercial enterprises of our people, after the adoption of the Constitution, brought them into collision with the English domineering spirit and English commercial interests. The right of impressment was claimed by English naval officers wherever English subjects were to be found, and with a view, perhaps, to checking Irish emigration and to provoke a contest which the English ministry arrogantly presumed would speedily end in the re-subjugation of the revolted colonies. Vessels were continually searched, and men carried off, with all the petty wanton indignity a British naval officer was disposed to inflict. In 1806 and 1807, the Milan decrees of Napoleon, and the orders in council of the English Government, mere paper blockades, made the commerce of the United States subject to seizure and confiscation. Added to these difficulties, the embargo laid by Congress upon American ships in port and the consequent total destruction of our commerce, caused great losses and distress.

Party feeling ran very high, especially in the years preceding the war of 1812, and during that war. 'Squire Ingersoll (William) in 1812, then 89 years old, was carried to the meeting-house to vote. Seated in an arm-chair, he was put upon an ox-sled and brought to the meeting-house, and deposited his ballot while seated in his chair. At the presidential election in 1812, the vote of Lee stood 180 for the Federal candidates to 14 for the Democratic.

1812, June 18, a Proclamation of War against Great Britain, was passed by a large majority in Congress. Though the war was not a popular measure, and the people were not prepared for it, it was carried on with spirit, for it was felt that Great Britain's arbitrariness and

aggressions could no longer be endured. Some Lee families had emigrated to Ohio, and it is well remembered yet by some, how eagerly they waited news of Perry's defeat or victory on Lake Erie. Goods were all ready to be carted away, and houses abandoned, if his bravery had not made him triumphant in the famous naval battle of September 10, 1813. President Madison, in 1814, July 4, called for 93,500 militia; 10,000 from Massachusetts. Governor Strong refused to send them out of the State. Great fears were entertained for the safety of Boston, when it was supposed that a British fleet could do to that city what was done at Baltimore and at Washington.

Fourteen men were drafted from the two militia companies of the town as its quota, 1814, September 10. They were mostly from the North Company; they joined with others to form a Company, of which John Nye was chosen captain.\* There was great alarm felt for the safety of those compelled to enter a service which was regarded by many in New England as an unjustifiable and odious mismanagement of the nation's resources. But the six weeks spent in Boston harbor, in monotonous drill, were quite as devoid of interest as of danger. Major General Joseph Whiton, of South Lee, was the commanding officer. He maintained good discipline. On one occasion, having gone to Boston, it was late at night when he returned. A guard had been stationed on the Neck and would not let him pass without the countersign. Colonel Dwight went two miles to get it. The soldier was from Williamstown, and General Whiton commended him for his fidelity.

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\*The others names were Thomas E. M. Bradley, John Olmsby, Samuel D. Sturges, J. M. Remeley, Silas Garfield, John Norcott, Eben C. Bradley, Horace Treat, John Woolly, John Howk 3d, Benjamin G. Osborn, John Allen, Arthur Perry and — Keith.

## THE OLD MILITIA AND TRAINING DAYS.

The laws of the State required the organization of the citizens capable of doing military duty, for the purpose of enrollment and training. It was distinct from the political or municipal organization, and few allusions to the militia appear on the town records. A vote was passed 1784, March 8, not to divide the militia company, but as no one can tell what a town-meeting will do, it is not surprising that the next year, 1785, May 18, the Selectmen and militia officers were instructed to divide the town into two companies. The old line of the Hoplands, as far as Mr. Howk's, was taken as the dividing line of the town, and from thence the middle of the road east to Becket. So exact was this geographical division of the population, that there were 112 men in the North Company, 113 in the South Company. Capt. David Porter was the captain of the North Company at this time. Capt. Thomas Crocker commanded the South Company. These two companies continued thus to divide the town, and a generous rivalry was the natural result.

In 1810, it was found necessary to re-organize the militia system of the State. But about this time, also, appear physician's certificates, at \$2 each, which released the holder from the duty of training. The war of 1814 revived, in a measure, the military spirit in the community, but 10 years brought about such social changes that the Selectmen were ordered to sell all the powder on hand, secure the other military stores in casks, and deposit them for safe keeping under the stairs in the meeting-house.

Twice a year, the active militia were warned out to general training. It was a day of excitement to the boys, who gathered from far and near to see the "doings." If any boy had a penny to spend, it was as much as he expected, and a sixpence was enough in his opinion to

make him feel as rich as Croesus. The parade ground was the then open field north of the church, Barnabas Adams' ten-acre lot. There was not often "a general muster" at Lee. There was company drill in the morning, dinner at twelve, dress parade and battalion drill in the afternoon. During the arduous duties of the day the men were refreshed with pailsful of liquor furnished at the expense of the officers; and at the close of the training, a few words of compliment were expected from the captain. Election to military office was sought in those days as a means of political preferment; but gradually the system became not only inefficacious in drilling soldiers, but odious from the abuses which crept in. Training day was a day of drunkenness and confusion. It was difficult to find any who would consent to take office. Vote after vote would be taken, but no one would accept. Jephthah Kellogg's speech, when he was elected, has been handed down as an example of the prevailing feeling: "I don't thank you, and I won't serve you."

All the idlers of the community gathered on training day for a gala time. Booths were built, and cider and ginger-bread, sold to the thirsty and hungry: sometimes articles mysteriously disappeared without being sold, as on one occasion when a huckster's back was turned, a horseman rode up to the stand, stuck his sword through the pile of cakes and carried them off as a trophy. It must be confessed that a military display, the horses and feathers of the cavalry, the uniforms, and glittering bayonets of the infantry, the martial music, and the roar of cannon, have something in them bewitching to the common mind; but the training days occupied much time, and were accompanied with so much drunkenness and rowdiness, that the best men in the community came to regard them as a nuisance, and these gala seasons became obsolete about the year 1830.



The interest of the community in military drill could not long be maintained, when assured peace at home and abroad made military duty obnoxious, because useless, and worse than useless. The trainings of the militia became occasions for drunkenness and degenerated finally into such disgraceful buffooneries that their suppression was effected none too soon. The system not only did not train good soldiers, it made bad men of many of them. Sometimes ramrods, in some awkward fellow's haste, would be left in the musket, and when fired, pass through some poor unfortunate's body. "The last muster in this vicinity was at Stockbridge, in 1830. The North Lee Company was commanded by Captain Thomas E. M. Bradley, with Dickinson Graves as Lieutenant; South Lee Company trained under Captain Zach. Winegar, detailed that day to act as Major, leaving his command to Lieutenant Henry Smith, assisted by First Sergeant Harrison Garfield, and Corporal Barnabas Hinckley. William P. Hamblin was Lieutenant of a Cavalry Company."

#### DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

With the close of the War of 1812, began a new era of prosperity, with manifold changes in the whole system of manufacturing. Instead of every house being a workshop, the introduction of cotton and woolen factories, changed the whole social life and habits of the people, as did in another way the introduction of railroads and the consequent change of business centers. The rapid fall of the Housatonic as it passed through Lee, gave this town great facilities for manufacturing, but the water power was at first principally used for saw and grist mills, lumber and breadstuff being the great wants of the early colonist. In 1806, Samuel Church, a practical paper-maker, came from East Hartford to South Lee, and erected a small paper mill near where the large mills of



the Hurlbut Paper Company now stand. This was the nucleus of the present great industry of the town, paper-manufacture, an account of which will be given in connection with the firms which are now so extensively engaged in this business.

#### PUBLIC ACTION ON MORAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

Though the action of a town meeting in Western Massachusetts now has no such importance as it had in the Revolutionary period of our history, it is gratifying to know how uniform has been the sentiment of the town in favor of righteousness and so of peace. 1854, it was "*Resolved*, That we as a town desire hereby to record our vote against the passage of the so-called Nebraska Bill, regarding it as iniquitous in conception, and the violation of a solemn compact." On the question of temperance, the public sentiment of the town has uniformly been in favor of suppressing tippling shops. The subject has often been discussed in town meeting, and the arguments and the votes have testified to the high moral tone of the community on this point.

The question of slavery was, from the first, a discordant element in our national polity. The attempt frequently made to divest it of power by one compromise and another finally and signally failed. The election of Abraham Lincoln as President for the term beginning 1861, March 4, was soon followed by the firing on Fort Sumter, April 11. April 15, President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 troops; May 4, 64,000 additional. 1862, July 1, 300,000. 1864, February 1, draft ordered for 300,000 additional. Lee responded cheerfully and promptly to all these calls, and said by its acts, "We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand strong."

## THE WAR OF SECESSION.

The first action of the town, on record, in reference to the outbreak of the War of Secession, is in connection with the town meeting called May 4, 1861. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Gale. On motion of Marshall Wilcox, Esq., it was voted, "That it is the sense of this meeting that there be a company of at least 64 men enrolled in this town to hold themselves in readiness for a call into active service." Resolutions, offered by Mr. Wilcox, were also adopted as "the unanimous expression of the feelings of all the citizens of the town:"

*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of Lee deem it important that the Government of the United States should have the hearty and earnest encouragement and active assistance of every loyal citizen in suppressing the treasonable Rebellion which aims at the overthrow of our laws and the Constitution of the land, and that as citizens of Lee, actuated by a love of our country and of universal liberty, we are ready to share in the common effort of sustaining the Government; and as a town, we assure those of our citizens who shall enter into the service of the Government as volunteer soldiers, that their families dependent upon them shall be well and honorably provided for, and sustained during their entire absence.

*Voted*, That the Selectmen be authorized to borrow \$3,000, if so much shall be necessary, under the Resolution adopted by the town.

*Voted*, That the Selectmen be authorized to procure a suitable room for a drill-room for the volunteers.

*Voted*, That a committee of four be appointed who shall have charge of the funds in connection with the Selectmen, and said committee of seven shall have entire control of the disbursement of the money, and the following persons were appointed as said Committee: *Selectmen*, W. G. Merrill, Edward Morgan, S. S. May. *Committee of Four*, Isaac C. Ives, William Taylor, Harrison Garfield, John Branning.

Meetings for drill were held at once. A company was organized, and called the "*Valley Guards*." Nearly a hundred joined. A public meeting was held May 21, and \$140.00 raised to procure uniforms, gray pants with black cord stripe, and fatigue jacket. Hon. John Branning

was elected Captain, and Luther Bradley, Lieutenant; but the Governor declined to accept them and the company disbanded. At this time, Colonel Lee's (10th Regiment) was mustering, and 22 joined Company A. Some went to New York and joined Duryea's Zouaves; others went to Boston, and joined the 2d Mass. Regiment (Colonel Gordon's); two or three went into New York Cavalry Regiments. Early in October occurred the first soldier's funeral. Charles Bassett, youngest son of Nathan Bassett, had enlisted as a musician in the 6th Michigan Regiment, in which his brother Chauncey was Captain. He died at Baltimore of typhoid fever, aged 23 years, Oct. 20, 1861, and his body was brought to Lee for burial.

The ladies were busy making and collecting such articles as the soldiers needed, and in November sent off boxes of good things to the Hospitals at Washington and Philadelphia,—shirts, drawers, pillow-cases and pillows, stockings, towels, sheets, and various little conveniences and comforts for sick soldiers. Nor were those in camp forgotten, and from family friends as well as from the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, almost every week the Express Company carried to the army some grateful tokens of loving remembrance.

The *Valley Gleaner* for Feb. 20, published a list of soldiers connected with various regiments: 2d, 10th, 21st, 27th, 31st Mass.; 5th, 6th, 18th, 24th New York; 7th Conn.; 45th Illinois. Lieut. Luther Bradley and 25 with him from Lee were in Company E, 27th Regiment; Lieut. B. A. Morey and 14 others in Company I, 31st Regiment. William T. Fish was for a time Sutler of the 2d Mass. Regiment.

At a town meeting held 1862, July 21, the following resolutions were submitted and unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, the President of these United States has called upon the several States to raise 300,000 men to put down the Rebellion; and

*Whereas*, the quota of men to be furnished by this town of Lee is 37, which number ought to be, if not already, promptly secured by voluntary enlistments :

Therefore, it is *voted* by the inhabitants of Lee, in town meeting assembled, to pay a bounty of \$100.00 to each person who shall enlist, or who has enlisted, to make up the quota of men required of this town, and that the same be paid when the men have been accepted and mustered into the service of the United States.

*Voted*, That the Selectmen take steps to raise \$3,700.00 in such mode as they deem best, and appropriate the same to the payment of the above bounty ; and we hereby pledge the honor, credit, reputation and resources of this town to the Selectmen in the raising and appropriating of said money as aforesaid, and to any and all persons who shall or may aid them by advancing on the credit of the town any sum or sums of money whereby the Selectmen shall be enabled to raise the said sum of \$3,700.00.

*Voted*, That when the Selectmen shall have raised the money, they pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer of the town, and the same be paid out by the Treasurer for the purposes aforesaid to the several persons who enlist to make up the 37 men, on the order of the Selectmen and not otherwise.

July 26, Camp Briggs was established at Pittsfield for the purpose of mustering and drilling troops. Here the 37th Regiment, as recruited, was stationed, till Sept. 7, when they left, 975 strong, for Hudson, and thence to Harper's Ferry, Va. The Regiment made for itself a most honorable record. The officers and men from Lee in the 24 battles through which they fought their way, gained a deserved renown as brave and steady soldiers.

A company was started to be commanded by Capt. F. W. Pease, Lieut. G. H. Hyde, and Lieut. P. W. Morgan, to join the 37th Regiment. Captain Pease and Lieutenant Morgan took charge of the men in the Camp at Pittsfield, while Lieutenant Hyde was recruiting. Colonel Edwards, in Lieutenant Hyde's absence, commissioned T. F. Plunkett of Pittsfield, Lieutenant of the company. But after some effort and remonstrance, Lieutenant Hyde received a commission in another company,



and in the course of time was assigned to a position in the company from Lee, of which he finally became captain.

August 24, when the President had issued his call for volunteers for nine months, a mass meeting was held in the park, and meetings were held also Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings. A company, mostly from Lee, volunteered under Capt. A. V. Shannon ; and others under Capt. B. A. Morey.

August 31, the officers of the Lee company in the 37th Regiment were presented with swords by the contribution of friends ; and the officers in the 49th received, Nov. 6, a similar expression of regard.

1862, Aug. 28, it was voted, that we, the town of Lee, do hereby authorize the Treasurer upon the order of the selectmen of this town to pay to each volunteer who shall be mustered into the service under the call of the President for 300,000 men for 9 months, the sum of \$100.00, to be paid in manner provided for by the following resolution, to wit :

*Resolved*, That the proper authorities of the town of Lee give to each volunteer who shall be mustered into the service of the United States, a note at 9 months date for \$100.00 with interest. Should any of the volunteers thus raised by said town of Lee be dishonorably discharged, the said note or notes to be void.

October 11, when it was ascertained that such notes were not negotiable, this action was rescinded, and immediate payment directed except in case of transfer of note.

November 6, a draft was to have taken place to fill up the quota demanded, but was postponed from Thursday to Monday. Saturday evening a public meeting was held. Individuals subscribed enough to offer \$30.00 each in addition to the \$100.00 bounty voted, and seven men, the number needed, promptly volunteered.

1863, July 25, the selectmen were authorized to borrow money to pay for the support of volunteers' families.



Sept. 26, the town voted an appropriation of \$7,247.52 to equalize bounty money paid.

When at the close of 1862, General Butler inaugurated the policy of forming negro regiments, Chauncey F. Bassett of Allegan, Mich., but a native of this town, received a commission as Major of the First Louisiana Native Guards.

The draft for this district for men to fill the quotas of the various towns occurred at Springfield, 1863, July 14; 84 men were drafted, but on examination, Aug. 7, only 21 were accepted. Some had joined in leagues to pay for any one of the membership the substitute money (\$300) required by the Government. Two of the six sons of Mrs. Warren, a widow living at East Lee, were drafted; the other four sons had volunteered early in the war and were then serving in the army.

1864, June 6, the selectmen were authorized to borrow money necessary to pay each volunteer \$125.00 bounty; and again, Dec. 13, had general authority to borrow money to secure volunteers in anticipation of further calls. Five of the citizens of Lee, at their own expense, sent substitutes into the army. Sept. 1, an enthusiastic mass meeting was held to promote enlistments. A committee secured a subscription of \$3,000.00, so that they offered \$175.00 bounty in addition to the \$125.00 offered by the United States, and \$20.00 a month paid by the State.

1863, Oct. 17, the President called for 300,000 more troops. The quota of Lee was 42, and strenuous efforts were made to secure this number by volunteers before the day fixed for a draft, Jan. 5. A recruiting office was opened. The bounties offered were unprecedentedly large; \$402.00 from the United States Government in addition to the \$325.00 from the State. Soldiers in the old regiments re-enlisted, many of the 31st Massachusetts Volunteer Militia entering a cavalry regiment. The draft was

postponed, but Feb. 1, 1864, a call was made for 500,000 men. May 12, it was announced that Lee must furnish 38 men to make up deficiencies. A draft of that number brought only 9 accepted men, who paid their substitute money. 29 others volunteered or agreed to go as substitutes. When the list of drafted men was put up in the Post Office some wag wrote beneath the list :

“ Why should we mourn conscripted friends,  
Or shake at war's alarms ?  
'Tis but the voice that Abraham sends  
Which bids them shoulder arms.”

1865, April 3, the selectmen reported that large expenditures had been necessary to secure recruits. 91 men had been obtained in Boston. After the close of the war the selectmen reported that 295 men in all had been sent. But as the town sent 14 men in excess of its quota, the Adjutant General says that 400 men must have been sent. It is a matter of regret that the town records are so meagre, deficient and imperfect, that no more accurate and just account can be given of the part taken so creditably by the town in the measures and movements of the four years' war of secession.

Under the President's last call for 300,000 troops, it was found that Massachusetts' quota was only 805, so largely in excess had been the soldiers credited to her under former calls.

When the news reached town, Monday, April 10, that Gen. Lee had surrendered, the excitement was intense. The bells were rung, cannon fired, the operatives rushed out of the mills to hear the particulars, to cheer, and to congratulate each other at the final cessation of the long and mournful struggle of the past four years.

Exclusive of money contributed by individuals and paid by the town for what was called State aid to

the families of volunteers, the town raised and paid \$21,654.56. The money expended for State aid, for which the town was reimbursed, was \$20,776.46.

No record was kept of the contributions, by the ladies, of articles for the comfort or necessities of the soldiers. The Christian Commission received in all \$1,005.17 in money, \$470.10 of this being a special contribution from the ladies. Many boxes, whose aggregate value cannot be given, were sent to the soldiers in camp and in hospital. The ladies raised by a fair or festival, \$289, and by membership fees in the Soldiers' Aid Society, \$172.

### 37TH REGIMENT.

The 37th Regiment was recruited in Berkshire County, and under command of Col. Oliver Edwards, Jr., left the State, 1862, September 7. It was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and reached its destination in time to take part in the battle of Fredericksburg. Company B of this Regiment was mainly composed of soldiers from this town, at first under the command of Capt. Franklin W. Pease, who died of the wounds received in the hard fought battles before Spottsylvania Court House, May 14, 1864, and was succeeded by Capt. George H. Hyde, who continued in command till the close of the war. The following brief sketch of the history of this Regiment is mainly taken from the report of the Adjutant General :

Leaving camp at New Baltimore, November 13, 1862, the Regiment marched first to Stafford Court House, thence to White Oak Church, and December 11, to the Rappahannock at Franklin's Crossing below Fredericksburg, being the first regiment to cross at that point. Guarded the bridges the next day ; were then posted on the extreme left, and on the retreat of the army were the last to recross. Remained in camp at Falmouth, where the Regiment, with only three axes to a Company, built

in a week 160 log-houses, 12 feet long, 7 feet high, 9 feet wide, with a fire-place to each and a floor of pine poles. April 28, crossed the Rappahannock again, and until May 4, the 6th Army Corps engaged nearly the whole of Lee's Army. May 6, recrossed the river. Virginia mud interfered with well-laid plans; a more insuperable obstacle than Secesh soldiery. June 13, took up the line of march northward, crossing the Potomac at Edwards' Ferry, June 27, protecting the rear. July 2, after a forced march of 34 miles, reached the battle-field of Gettysburg. The heat was intense, and in the marching at double quick from point to point on the line, some twenty fell from sunstroke; at one time, 3 P. M., passing through a terrific shell fire and losing 23 men killed and wounded. July 4, took position in the center on the front line. July 5, the enemy having retreated, followed in pursuit. The severities of the marching are indicated by the fact that when Middletown was reached, July 9, 180 men were without shoes. Advanced, July 15, to Williamsport, but Lee's Army had all recrossed the river. Marched down the east side of the Blue Ridge to Warrenton, Va. July 30, detailed to do guard duty and provost duty in New York City, in connection with the draft. October 14, were ordered to report at Washington; reached Warrenton October 20. November 7, marched to Rappahannock Station, and November 26, crossed the Rapidan. December 2, fell back to the north bank of the Rapidan crossing at Culpepper Ford. December 3, went into camp at Brandy Station.

In the campaign of 1864, the 37th Regiment bore a conspicuous part. The following is the report of the adjutant-general, of its conduct in the second day's fight, in the battle of the Wilderness. "No regiment displayed greater gallantry than did the 37th on the 6th of May. It was on the right of the Gordonsville road, in the third



or fourth line of battle, as a support to the lines in front. The front lines at last gave way, passing over the Regiment in a complete rout. The enemy, flushed with apparent success, pressed hard on. The order was given for the 37th to advance. At the word, every man moved forward under a withering fire, and hurled the enemy's lines back one upon another, for the distance of one-fourth of a mile, and held the position till the line in rear had time to reform. Being here exposed to a terrible musketry fire from the front and both flanks, it was ordered to fall back, which movement it executed without confusion." In the battles of the Wilderness, the Regiment lost about 150 men, among whom were two brave Lee lads, George Phinney and George W. Coope.

In the several engagements near Spottsylvania Court House, the 37th bore itself with the same gallantry. In the Adjutant-General's report for 1865, we find the following account of the "Battle of the Angle," fought on the 12th of May, in which the 37th supported an attack made by the 2d Corps. "The enemy was completely surprised, and their works successfully carried. Then ensued a hand-to-hand struggle for their possession. The enemy in our immediate front, occupied one side of the captured works and we the other, each party keeping up a continuous fire on the parapet. Thus we fought from sunrise till midnight, when the enemy relinquished the field."

In this engagement, Capt. Pease and Lieut. A. C. Sparks, both of this town, were wounded, the former fatally. At Coal Harbor, Petersburg and Winchester, the 37th did the country service and itself honor.

From January to April, 1865, the Regiment was in camp engaged in the usual routine of guard and picket. February 5-7, it was held in reserve in the engagements at Hatcher's Run and Dabney's Mills. March 25, six



companies were deployed as skirmishers at the capture of Fort Stedman. April 1, in the assault on Petersburg, the skirmish line was composed entirely of men detailed from the Regiment, which occupied the front line of battle in the brigade. The Rebels fired their last volley as the colors of the Regiment, first in the division, were borne by the gallant troops over the Rebel works. Seventy miles advance was made in the marching and counter-marching of the next four days. On the morning of the 6th, after marching 25 miles, eight miles on the double quick, rushing across Saylor's Creek, with water up to the arm-pits, the Regiment dislodged the enemy from the opposite bank, and drove them over the crest of the hill. But the regiment on the right gave way; the brigade on the left failed to advance. The Rebels massed to the attack in heavy columns, but the fire from the Spencer rifles was so terrific, that they threw down their guns, held up their hands, and implored a cessation of the battle. Yet on the flank of the Regiment, there were many instances of hand-to-hand conflict and great personal bravery. Captain Hopkins commanded the Regiment in the engagements of the 2d and 6th of April, and was twice breveted for his gallantry in battle. After the battle of Saylor's Creek, the Regiment followed the track of Lee's Army until its surrender on the 9th near Appomattox Court House. April 13, the Regiment returned to Burkesville and rested a few days. April 23, ordered to Danville, made the march of 100 miles in four days. May 3, left Danville for Wilson's Station, a few miles below Petersburg, and there guarded the railroad. May 18, started on the homeward march, were reviewed in Richmond May 24, reached Washington June 2, participated in the Grand Army Review June 15, left for Massachusetts June 22, and were discharged at Readville July 1.

The 37th Regiment received a most gratifying ovation when they returned home, 300 out of 975. In the campaign of the Wilderness, the Regiment charged alone on Longstreet's Corps, losing 100 men in 15 minutes, but cutting the Rebel Corps in two. It is said that at Spottsylvania, each man fired 400 rounds of ammunition; and in the War Department at Washington is shown the stump of a tree, cut in two by their bullets. At Winchester, they captured the flag of the 1st Virginia, the old battalion of "Stonewall" Jackson.

#### THE 49TH REGIMENT,

Under the command of Capt. W. F. Bartlett, of 20th Mass. Reg., who had lost a leg before Yorktown, the 49th Regiment of Mass. Vols. for Nine Months, was mustered at Camp Briggs, Pittsfield. They were after a time removed to Worcester where Capt. Bartlett was commissioned as Colonel, S. B. Sumner of Great Barrington as Lieut. Col.; C. T. Plunkett, Major. This Regiment was mainly composed of Berkshire men, and was recruited in the Summer and Fall of 1862, the recruits from Lee and vicinity generally joining Companies F. and H.

1862, September 27, at Camp Briggs, Company H. made choice of officers as follows, viz.: Capt., A. V. Shannon of Lee; 1st Lieut., B. C. Deming of Sandisfield; 2d Lieut., DeWitt S. Smith of Lee; the whole number of votes cast being 74. Company F., in which many from Lee served, was commanded by Capt. B. A. Morey of Lee. The Regiment was sent first to New York City, and kept for several weeks doing provost guard duty. Their barracks were at "Camp N. P. Banks," Long Island, near the Union Course. So excellent was the discipline, so reliable the men, that the department commander made strenuous efforts to retain them at New York for their whole term of service. But in 1863, January 24, they

were sent in the steamer "Illinois" to New Orleans. Thence they were sent to Carrollton, and to Baton Rouge, and formed part of the 1st Brigade, Augur's Division. March 14, they were engaged in a feigned advance to Port Hudson; and on their return did provost duty at Baton Rouge. In May they constituted part of the expedition to Port Hudson. May 21, they were engaged in the battle of the "Plains Store," having five men wounded. May 27, in the first assault on Port Hudson, they lost 76 killed and wounded. Col. Bartlett was shot in the wrist and in the heel; Lieut. Col. Sumner was wounded in the shoulder; Lieuts. Judd and Deming were killed. In the feigned attack of June 14, there were 18 killed and wounded. They were kept at the front till Port Hudson surrendered, July 9. On the 13th, having marched four miles up a bayou to Donaldsonville, they were suddenly attacked by the enemy, but by a circuitous march of three miles, they escaped what seemed almost certain destruction. Soon after this, they came up the Mississippi *en route* for home, and arrived at Pittsfield, August 21. There went from Pittsfield 947 officers and men; 715 came home.

#### INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

Major Adam Miller started off at the first call for volunteers with B. A. Morey, E. W. Lewis, and two or three others, to join Duryea's Zouaves in New York. Not liking their style, they went to Boston and joined the 2d. Mass. Vol. Militia. In the battle of Cedar Run Mountain, a minnie ball struck Miller on his right cheek, glanced along the bone, going under his nose, and coming out through the socket of his left eye. It made a ghastly wound and deprived him of an eye, but he is still living and engaged in active business at Foxburg, Pa.

Capt. Peletiah Ward (20th New York Volunteers), was

from 1848 to 1850 the pastor of the Methodist Church in Lee. At the outbreak of the war he was stationed at Ellenville, N. Y. He was killed at the battle of Manassas in 1862. Finding himself wounded, yet seeing the color bearers repeatedly shot down, he staggered forward, grasped the colors himself, only to be again wounded more severely.

Capt. Thomas S. Bradley, (9th Co., N. Y., State Sharpshooters,) a native of Lee and a graduate at Williams College in 1848, for a time pastor at Wilton, Conn., while acting pastor of the church at Lebanon Springs, N. Y., enlisted with a company mainly from his own congregation. He was stationed at Suffolk, Va., where he contracted a fever of which he died June 28, 1863. His body was brought to Lee for burial.

Capt. F. W. Pease was wounded in the right shoulder at the battle of Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864. He was put into an ambulance to be taken to Fredericksburg, but died on the journey and was buried by the roadside.

1864, July 31, Dr. George McAllister, a native of South Lee, was brought there for burial. He was a Surgeon of Sickles' Excelsior Brigade, and afterwards was appointed by Gen. Hooker to locate and inspect hospitals in his department. His health failed, and coming North, he died at the Ashland House, New York City.

Eldad E. Moore, enlisted from this town in the 27th Regiment, September 19, 1861. In a foggy morning, May 16, 1863, before Fort Darling, the regiment was surrounded and 270 taken prisoners. With others, Moore was sent to Andersonville, Ga., and lived through the miseries of that horrible prison pen. In fear of Sherman's raid, the prisoners were removed to places of greater security. Sent from Andersonville, September 26, Moore jumped from the cars, when they had gone about 10 miles, and started off in a north-west direction



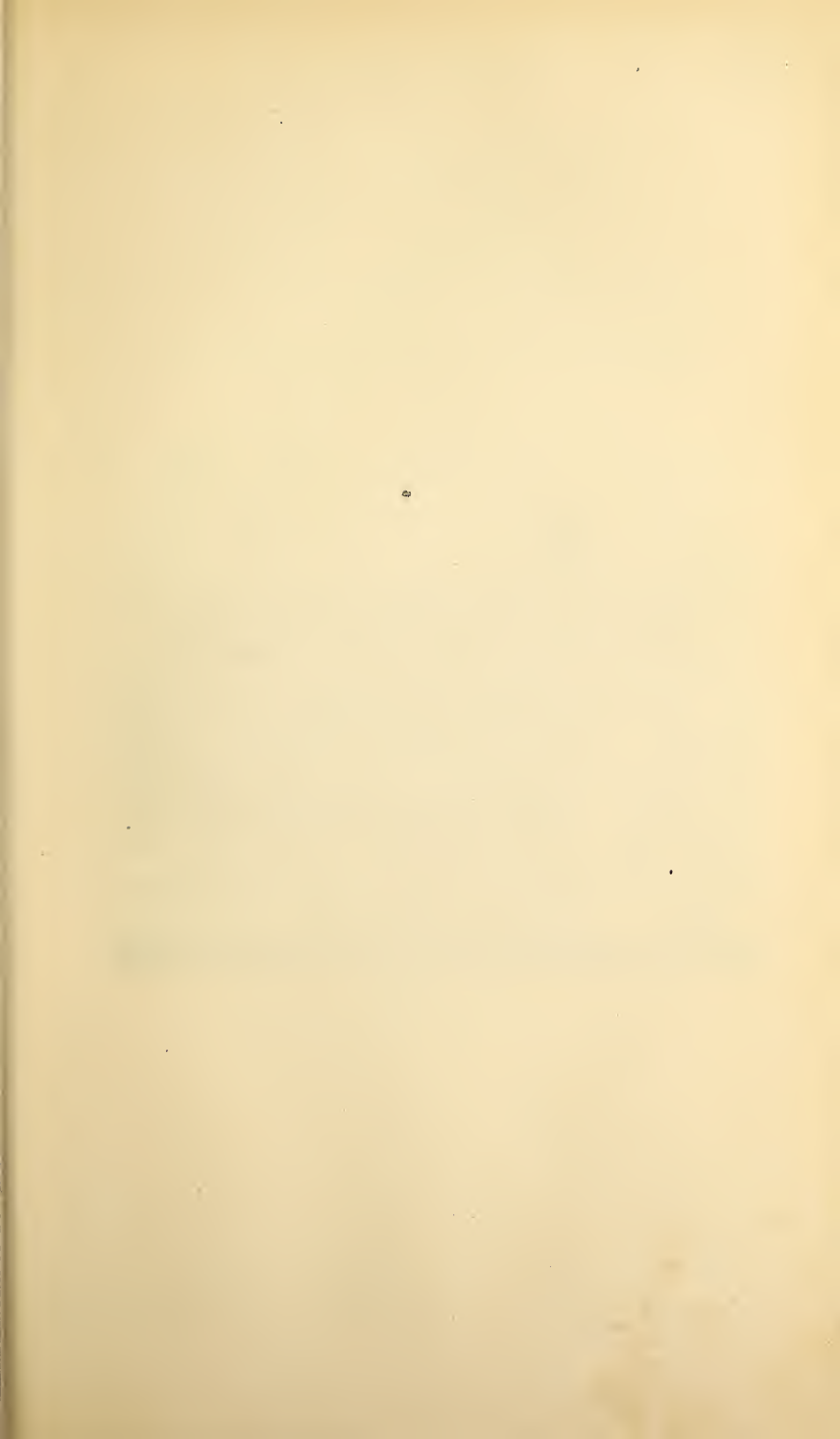
for Atlanta and freedom. When he had traveled about 75 miles he was re-captured and sent to Columbus, Ga. He exchanged clothes with some Southern soldiers, and escaped by walking out of the prison as if one of the guard. He reached Atlanta, and received new clothes and a pass for the North. The train in which he left Atlanta was captured by bushwhackers, but he escaped from them and went to Atlanta for a fresh start. He finally reached Washington and Boston, where he was discharged, having been in service 3 years and two months.

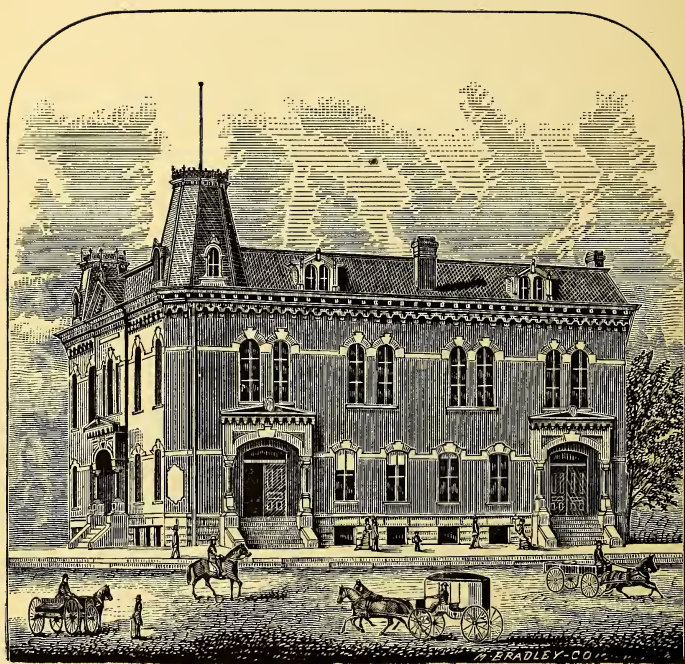
Charles Gates, a minor son of William K. Gates of East Lee, wished to enlist early in the war, but his parents disapproved. They sent him one day to drive the cattle to a mountain pasture. He attended to this duty, and then pushed on to the army rendezvous, and enlisted in the 10th Regiment. After fulfilling his term of service as a soldier without a furlough, he arrived at Springfield, 1864, June 25. Leaving the cars at Becket, he came over the mountain to the pasture, and about the usual time in the afternoon, drove the cattle home, where the belated cow-boy was received with joyous welcome by parents and neighbors.

#### CHANGES IN BUSINESS.

The war which was in the opinion of many to bring ruin to the manufacturing interests of New England, in fact brought prosperity such as was never known before. Paper stock indeed was very scarce, and rags rose from one cent a pound to five. Cotton mattresses were sold at a great profit. But currency, such as it was, postal currency at first, and then greenback and fractional, was very abundant. Large bounties were paid and generally spent freely, though some were provident enough to invest their money profitably. The 7-30 bonds of the Government were eagerly taken, and the interest money paid on







MEMORIAL HALL.

these, stimulated many to invest in these securities. The Government resorted to an internal revenue tax to meet its extraordinary expenditures; but this draft on the resources of the people was cheerfully met. Mr. Elizur Smith paid the largest internal revenue tax paid in this county, over \$4,000 monthly. The business prosperity of the place continued on, receiving no check till 1873. In that year the flush times culminated. It was a time of general expenditure in building, repairing, and other improvements. It is estimated that \$350,000 were spent that year in this town for such purposes.

Lee, with other manufacturing towns, felt the impulse to enlarge business. New blocks were put up, new mills built, and old mills enlarged. A desire had long been felt to have a new avenue for the transportation of the products of the town, and the importation of the raw material required in our mills. As the Housatonic railroad had practically a monopoly of transportation, our manufacturers could not compete successfully with those of Holyoke and other places whose goods were transported at lower rates. The Lee and New Haven and Lee and Hudson railroads were therefore projected. The history of these roads is given in another place.

#### MEMORIAL HALL.

In 1869, April 5, the project of building a Memorial Hall was first brought before the town. The design was to have in such a structure not only some fitting testimonial by grateful fellow-citizens to those who went out from our homes to fight the battles of Liberty and Union, but to combine with this consecrated memorial some provision of special advantages for the social needs of such a community as Lee had now grown to be. A large hall for public use was a pressing want. Offices were to be provided for the varied administration of the town's

affairs. In 1858 the selectmen had petitioned the town for rooms for their exclusive occupancy, and also for a fire-proof safe, as now required by law. The Post Office could have special accommodations for its use. But beyond all, a Public Library could be secured, which would be the supplement of the present system of school instruction, and furnish free education to every citizen. At the annual town meeting, April 7, 1873, a committee was appointed to consider the whole subject and report plans at a future meeting. April 26, of the same year, this committee reported that individuals had generously subscribed \$3,200.00 for the purchase of a site, on condition that the town would erect upon it, a suitable building to serve as a memorial for the soldiers of the town in the late war, and also for a town hall, library and other public purposes. The committee further recommended that the donation be accepted, and that a Memorial Hall be erected upon the site proposed, the corner of Main and North Park streets. The report of the committee was accepted and adopted, and \$22,000.00 was appropriated for the erection of the Hall. Messrs. Elizur Smith, John Branning, Charles Bradley, Thomas O. Hurlbut and William Taylor were appointed a committee to carry this vote into execution. At a subsequent town meeting, held Jan. 19, 1874, the committee were instructed to finish off the basement into rooms suitable for renting, and \$1,500.00 was appropriated to defray the expense, and \$1,000.00 additional was appropriated for providing suitable furniture for the Hall and town offices. In March following, the committee were still further instructed to prepare Memorial Tablets to be placed in the Hall, and to contain the names of the soldiers from this town who had sacrificed their lives in the late struggle for the integrity of the Union, and \$650.00 was placed at their disposal for this purpose.

This committee executed their trust faithfully, in no instance exceeding the appropriations, and defraying from their own pockets the many extra expenses which are always incurred in the erection of such a building, and which can not well be detailed in the contract. The whole cost of the Hall, including the donation for the site, furniture, tablets, etc., was about \$29,000.00.

Everything being finished, Memorial Hall was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, May 30, 1874, Rev. Dr. Gale delivering an address which contained a pretty complete military history of the town. This building, while serving the original purpose of a memorial to the Lee soldiers, is a great ornament to the town, and furnishes commodious rooms for town meetings, town offices, library and post office.

### SOCIAL LIFE IN THE EARLY DAYS.

In this connection, it may be well to fix in mind the general condition of things in the community, the occupations and habits of the people, and the appearance of the village. During the first ten years of the settlement of the town, that is from 1760 to 1770, only thirteen families had pitched their dwellings here. These all lived in small log-houses, most of them on the mountain sides, as the early settlers regarded the valley of the river as marshy and unhealthy. No roads or bridges had then been built. Travelers were guided on their course by marked trees, and streams were forded, or crossed by a fallen tree that served for a bridge. In 1770, John Winegar came into town and built his log-house by the side of the rocks near the site of the present Columbia Mill. The rock served as the back side of his house, and also as one side for his chimney down which he put his wood to the fire-place. Near his dwelling Mr. Winegar



built the first grist mill in town. At this time (1770), the location of the few families in town was as follows: Isaac Davis was living on his farm, now the McAllister place near South Lee. Reuben Pixley lived on what is now H. Garfield's farm, about a mile east of Mr. Davis. John Goffe, an Irishman, lived a mile north of Mr. Pixley on the J. H. Royce place; Hope Davis lived a mile east of Goffe on the hill a little east of Messrs. May's mill. Near him, lived Aaron Benedict, George Parker and William Chanter, the latter a quaker and called "friend William." Jonathan Foote occupied a log-house on the farm now owned by T. L. Foote. Mr. Atkins lived in the extreme east part of the town, near the old Shailer tavern, now occupied by Mr. Belden. Elisha Freeman pitched his house on the farm now owned by his grandson, J. B. Freeman, and a little north of him lived Lt. Crocker, and a mile east on the mountain lived Mr. Dodge; and around him afterwards there was quite a settlement, called Dodgetown. Here lived the blacksmith, the shoemaker and the tanner, and here it was at first proposed to build the church. In and around the village, there were not five acres of cleared land. Kunkerpot, an Indian chief, had a wigwam in what is now the Park, and several other Indian huts were in the vicinity.

During the next ten years, from 1770 to 1780, many valuable citizens settled in town, among whom were Nathaniel and Cornelius Bassett, Nathan Ball, Jesse Gifford, Jesse Bradley, William Ingersoll, Timothy Thatcher, Oliver and Prince West, Arthur Perry, Samuel Stanley, Amos Porter, Josiah Yale, Ebenezer Jenkins, Nathan Dillingham, Job Hamblin, and others. They were men of intelligence, and generally of religious character, and have left their impress for good on succeeding generations. Their dress and mode of living were simple in the extreme. They lived amid poverty and war, but

were industrious, patriotic, and public-spirited. Very little money was in circulation, and most payments were made "by barter." Corn, wheat, leather, etc., were the mediums of exchange. Many were the turns made to bring about a balance of accounts. On the records of the building committee of the Congregational Church is the following entry: "Nathan Dillingham, Cr. By settling with sundry carpenters, making many turns, 50 cents." He doubtless earned his money. Wheeled vehicles were unknown, and the horse's back furnished the only means for transportation. Women rode behind their husbands on pillions attached to the saddles. Major Dillingham, the first merchant, brought his teas, spices and dry goods on horseback from Hudson, the nearest market town. His store was in the buttery of his house. Great friendliness prevailed among neighbors, and there was much social visiting, and a general spirit of hospitality. Rye and Indian bread was the staple article of diet. This was made of two-thirds corn meal, and one-third rye.

The condition of our New England communities at the beginning of this century was in many respects most enviable. "Nobody was rich, or poor : all were well-to-do. The church bell was within sound, and the district school-house within reach of the entire population. The families were generally large. A dozen children was the standard number. Everybody worked, everybody read and studied. The men worked hard all through the Summer, and thought hard all through the Winter. None of the energies of life were prostituted to the greed of gain, and none of the powers of the mind frittered away in vain attempts to outdo one another in extravagance of expenditure."

As indicative of the crude and tentative condition of affairs in this period, allusion should be made to the

entries on the town records in regard to inoculation for the small-pox. That was the contagious disease most to be dreaded in that time of general ignorance of any scientific method of treatment. 1785, March 7, the town voted to put this matter in charge of a committee appointed for the purpose. No person was to be inoculated without their permission. And the fact of recovery was to be certified after careful examination, by a physician to be appointed for this purpose by the committee. Some still living, remember the pest-houses, rude cabins where those duly inoculated, some half dozen at a time, were cared for by nurses who had themselves passed safely through the disease.

One indication of the predominance of agricultural interests in the early history of the town, is the frequent entry by the town clerk of the "marks of creatures," as chosen by the different farmers. Nathan Ball's, for instance, was "a hollow crop in end of left ear, and a happeny cut on the upper side the wright ear." He chose this, which was formerly Prince West's, when West moved out of town in May, 1792.

One of the marks of a primitive period, was the right claimed to pasture swine and cattle in the streets. The hog-reeve, whose duty it was to see that swine running at large were duly ringed and yoked, and to impound all stray cattle, was as recognized an important official as the shire-reeve, (sheriff). Not till 1816, do we find a record to the effect that "swine should not run at large at any rate," and not until 1859 was the right to pasture cattle in the highway abridged by vote of the town in accordance with authority conferred by the State law. The hog-reeve's occupation from this time forth was pretty much a nullity. The office was continued, and was usually conferred as a joke on some recent benedicts. With the disappearance of cattle from the highway, the

town pound also disappeared, and more recently the custom of fencing by the road-side was found to be a useless expense, and is slowly becoming obsolete.

To the rude log-houses of the first settlers succeeded such small framed houses as the terms of the grants required should be built. The house in which Fenner Foote lived may be regarded as a representative of this style, and ought, on that account, to be preserved for the instruction of future generations. As wealth increased, say from 1790 onwards, a better style of farm-house, generally one story high, came into fashion. Of late years these have been extensively altered, repaired, generally raised another story, and remodelled; but such a house as John Bowen's will afford a good specimen of the old style. The front door had a massive knocker and latch handle. It opened upon a hall, or stairway rather, which had doors opening on either side to the front rooms. On one side the best room, seldom opened: on the other, the sitting-room. The stairs twisted steeply upwards, with square turns and landing places. A huge chimney occupied the center of the house. Beneath the roof, this was built of stone: above the roof, it was topped with brick, and stood squarely solid, giving an air of stability and strength to the whole house. Across the rear of the house, back of the chimney, extended the kitchen. From one end a part was taken off for the cellar stair way and the back stairs above, adjoining which was the passage way to the side-door. On the other end of the kitchen was a bed-room or buttery. Beyond the kitchen was the milk-room with the cheese-room. Beyond this, the wood-house came, and next the carriage-house, if any; or these would be set at right angles to the main building. These houses large and roomy, were built beyond the means of the owners to finish at once. As the ability and size of the family increased, one room after another was finished.



Sometimes the children slept in chambers not plastered nor ceiled. The stars could be seen twinkling in the sky at night, or the coverlet in the morning would be white with the snow that had drifted down. The children in one family had the measles at a time when the gable end of the house, of loose boards, fell in before a driving storm: but as plenty of fresh air was recommended in sickness of this kind, the children went through the troublesome malady all right. The chambers were cold, and the warming-pan was an indispensable requisite to make one comfortable for the night. The high four-posted bedstead with tester and valance, and curtains of copper-plate chintz, gave the impression that sleeping was considered a part of the serious business of life, for which most formidable preparation must be made. Feather-beds, piled halfway to the ceiling, and covered with snow-white tufted spreads, suggested a resemblance between going to bed and ascending some Alpine summit.

The great kitchen fireplace was the center around which the household work revolved the greater part of the year. Sometimes the huge back log would be drawn in by the old horse. More frequently it was rolled into its place with a cant hook. The floor timbers would shake with the jar every time the log was rolled over.

No "patent medicine" almanacs, or agricultural newspapers, bewildered our grandmothers with recipes for jellies and salads, sauces and soups. Milk and mush made a most excellent breakfast or supper for the children in these primitive homes. Johnny-cake twice a week, and rye doughnuts as often, furnished all the variety thought needful. The farmers' dish of pork and beans, or the boiled dish of salt beef and cabbage, called "potluck," was heartily relished by the men whose work called for long protracted muscular toil. Hulled corn was a delicacy. In the proper season, ham and eggs formed a favorite



dish. Fresh meat was a luxury. Butcher's carts did not commence to carry meat till about 1828.

The kitchen furniture was very simple. The table was of cherry, or there were two tables that could be put end to end when there was company to be entertained in addition to the usual number of the family. Hooks driven into the ceiling, supported poles on which hung strings of dried apples, or rings of ripe pumpkins. The "dresser," or open cupboard, displayed an array of burnished pewter plates and cups, and also the wooden trenchers, articles of daily household use. The china cups, if the family had any, were kept in the closet in the best room, and when company was entertained were brought out with much ceremonious apologizing and moving of chairs away from the cupboard or dining-room door. The kitchen mantle-piece was adorned with candlesticks and snuffers, a well smoked Bible and a well thumbed almanac.

About 1820, wooden clocks began to be introduced from Connecticut. Previous to that time, the long cased clock was as much a badge of family respectability as the piano-forte is now. Between the windows hung a mirror in a gilt frame, and on the lamp-stand beneath was stored the pile of weekly newspapers, and the literature of the family. Around the walls were ranged the chairs of wooden or of splint bottoms, and room was found also for a chintz-covered lounge. Before the days of the present chromo-civilization, the only specimen of the pictorial arts that adorned the walls was generally some mortuary memento, or the lithograph portrait of some one of the Presidents.

The best rooms had no carpets before 1820. Those first used were made of pieces of cloth sewed together, with figures of different hues and devices sewed on after some simple pattern; later came in the rag-carpet, woven in the old hand loom, out of strips of cloth cut and dyed.

What endless talk went on with the planning, cutting and weaving of these home-made carpets, till they challenged the admiration of every visitor by the firmness of their texture, or the splendor and clearness of their dyes! The paneling around the room was simplicity itself, compared with the high wooden mantel-piece most elaborately ornamented with joiner work that baffles description. "Gingerbread ornamentation" it has been named. Fiddle-back chairs, straight and high, were ranged in symmetrical order around the room.

The people of Richmond, in those days, considered themselves quite aristocratic, and regarded Lee people as exceedingly plain and altogether too democratic to constitute the finest society. But refined society does not depend wholly or chiefly on style of household living or of personal attire. The style of dress during the Revolutionary period, was that which had been customary for nearly a century. It was supplanted by the less picturesque, if more comfortable fashion of modern male apparel. Knee breeches and short clothes passed out of date. The ruffled shirt and the swallow-tailed coat maintained their place longer among the essentials of a gentleman's wardrobe. Such style of apparel was not common among the farmer folk of Lee. They were a frugal, hard-working people. The leather apron was almost universally worn by the men and boys. Blue checked linen aprons were worn by the women and girls. For head-gear, the men wore on grand occasions tall, stiff, beaver hats; one was expected to last a lifetime. Round wool hats were the ordinary covering. The mothers made the cloth caps the boys wore in Winter, and braided the coarse straw hats for Summer wear. Sun-bonnets nicely starched, were the girls' simple covering, who had no thought of such hideous deformities as modern fashions have imposed upon the women of our time.

The tailoress and dress-maker went from house to house every Spring and Fall to help in fitting the family for the change from Summer to Winter garments. The shoe-maker carried his kit in like manner from house to house. This was commonly called "whipping the cat." Each family furnished the stock for boot and shoe making, and in every town there was needed a tanner's and currier's shop to prepare the leather. Three years' soaking in the vats was considered none too long to secure a serviceable article. When David Baker and Ben. Brown were the shoe-makers, engaged from year's end to year's end, in the sacred mysteries of their craft, their fashion was to leave home Monday morning to fulfil their engagements, and return Saturday evening. Night and day the work was going on, and the weekly wages of six dollars was thought ample pay. When the measure of the foot was taken, the custom was to stand against the wall of the house, with the heel firmly held against the mop-board. The sharp knife that looked as if it would take off a piece of the toe, was stuck in the floor. "Now, stand aside," was the next direction given, and then with a splint or twig, the length of the foot was noted. Care was taken to make the shoe or boot broad enough, but whether it was broad-toed, or square-toed, or round-toed, was not a question of much importance. When the people walked to church, they often would carry their shoes till within the last half mile; then wear them to "meeting," with the sweet consciousness of having saved unnecessary wear of shoe-leather.

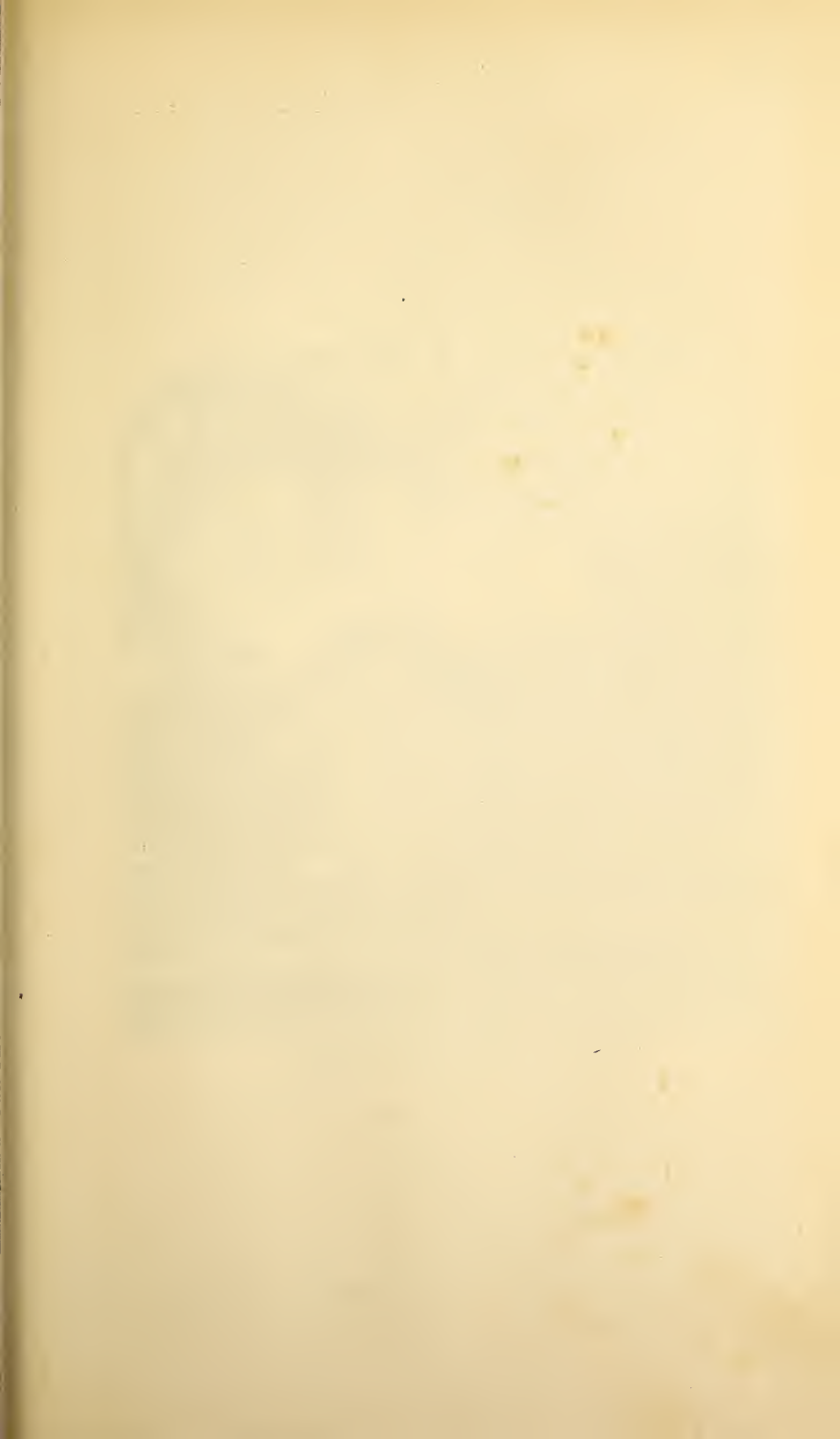
The women found their hands and hours fully occupied in providing within doors for the varied wants of the household, while the men were kept busily at work in the labors of the field.

There was no better school for the training of the young to diligence and enterprise, than was furnished by

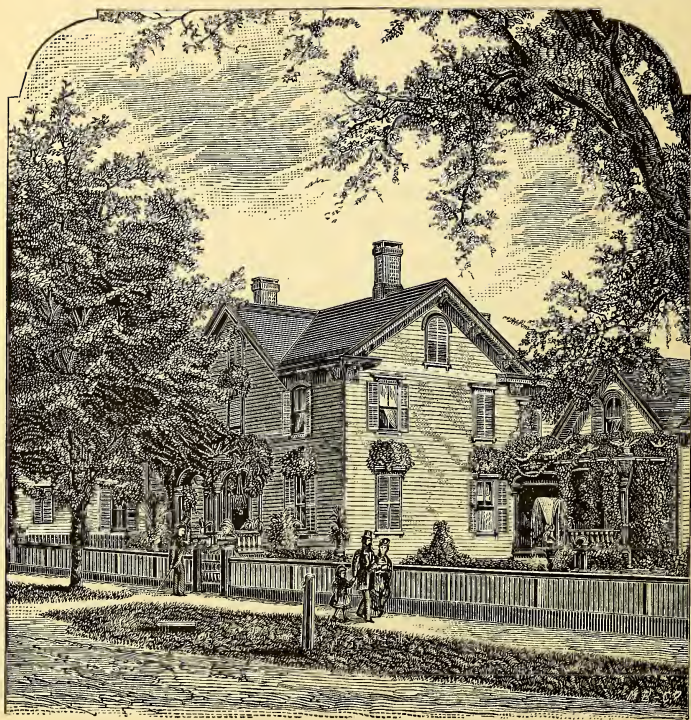
the varying experience of New England farm-life. Each day had its regular work, but that work was so varied as to demand, almost moment by moment, the exercise of sound judgment in deciding what was to be done, and how it was best to do it. There must be planning and contrivance to make the most of the limited resources of the household. With this constant need of forethought, it is not at all surprising that the farmers of the town were so generally fore-handed and thrifty. The farmers' wives had no time to spend in bemoaning their nervousness and taking drugs for various weaknesses; yet neither were they so overburdened with work, as to be only drudges, rather than companions and counselors for husbands and children.

The common method of traveling was on horseback. There were side-saddles for the women, but most frequently they rode on a pillion behind the husband, or brother, or beau chevalier. Children would sometimes be taken by the father to school on horseback, two riding behind him, two in front, and one held in his lap. Dr. Hyde's chaise was the first one owned in town. 'Squire Yale's made its appearance about the same time. 'Squire Whiton had for his family, a four-wheeled covered carriage with thorough-braces. Dr. Sergeant rode in a gig; Dr. Bartlett on a buck-board.

A stranger coming to Lee at the commencement of the present century, would have seen little to lead him to anticipate the closely packed, intensely busy community of the present day. There was not even a sufficiently large cluster of houses around the meeting-house to indicate the center of a thriving farming community. Not a house of any kind was then on the west side of Main street, and on the east side only the one-story house, long known as the Barna Adams place, now owned by Elizur Smith, on what is now the corner of Franklin street.







RESIDENCE OF DEWITT S. SMITH.

'Squire Jenkins, who had first lived on the hill east of John B. Freeman's present residence, moved into the village, and lived, where DeWitt S. Smith now lives, in a one-story house. Cornelius Bassett, a mason by trade, occupied a one-story house on the corner of Main and West Park streets, and the cellar walls now form a substantial foundation for the beautiful residence of Wellington Smith. Indeed, the timbers of the first story of the present mansion are the same that were in the house of Mr. Bassett. Cornelius T. Fessenden, the merchant, occupied a small house on the corner east of the Park, which now constitutes the rear of the house standing on this corner. Nathaniel Bassett, the blacksmith of this part of the town, lived where Mr. E. A. Moore, who married his granddaughter, now lives, and Maj. Nathan Dillingham, the hotel-keeper and business man, occupied the old "Red Lion," as his tavern was called, from its being painted red and having the figure of a lion for its sign.

Dillingham and Fessenden kept store in the building which is now the residence of William Bartlett. The store was the place to hear the news. Either there, or at the "Red Lion" tavern, the men gathered to talk over village politics, or tell tales of former experiences, or rehearse the traditionary lore of family or community. They amused themselves often in playing upon each other rough, practical jokes. The newspaper did not then bring to every man's door the knowledge of all events of interest, near and far, within each preceding twenty-four hours. No persons made it their business to furnish entertainment for other people. Yet fun they had, rather boisterous and rude, it must be confessed. Diversions of some kind are a necessity of human nature. Amid all the austerities and rigidities of those days, hallowed to us by veneration for the right principles of conduct and character maintained by our New England

ancestry, relaxations were sought in modes which now would be considered low-toned.

Every occasion for social enjoyment was eagerly improved. Going to meeting was desirable for its opportunity for social intercourse, as well as for the exercises of public devotion to which the sanctuary was consecrated. The town meeting was an opportunity for development of powers of thought, expression, and leadership. It was a principal element in the formation of the New England type of character, thoughtful, independent, sensitive to public opinion, yet conscious of individual responsibility in the maintenance of correct and honorable public sentiment. A large class, of course, neither appreciated nor desired mental and moral qualities and powers, so much as they did the manifestation of physical strength, and indulgence in hilarious merriment.

One Winter evening, Messrs. Porter and Goodspeed had been boasting in Dillingham's store of the merits of their horses. The clerk, Nat. Backus, slyly fastened a coil of rope to the hitching post and to the sleigh; then urged them to show the speed of the old mare which stood waiting for them at the door. He backed the sleigh up to the post, handed them the reins, and at the word "Go," off they started. The old horse sprang forward, went about two rods, and then stopped with a sudden jerk that sent the men out of the sleigh over the dasher. A second trial resulted in a similar spill, when suspecting the trick, Goodspeed jumped out, cut off the rope at the post, threw it into the sleigh, and without a word of inquiry or reprimand drove off, undoubtedly thinking he had the best of the joke.

Major Dillingham was the village poet, and some of his humorous versification is still handed down in the older families, as reminiscences of old-time ways. Mr. Daniel Foote, having lost an umbrella, put up a notice of



his loss in the post-office, but in such a crabbed style of hand-writing, that Major Dillingham was tempted to perpetrate a piece of friendly criticism :

“Daniel read the writing on the wall and gave the interpretation,  
But never a Daniel since the fall could read such a notification.”

The Sabbath was a day of abstinence as complete as it could be made, from all ordinary household work. Reckoning it as beginning, according to the old Jewish custom, from sunset Saturday, it was the custom to have all work cease about an hour previous. Clothes were to be mended, and clean ones laid out in readiness for the Sabbath ; even shaving was all done Saturday that there might be no unnecessary infringement on holy time. The Bible was brought out, and all noise sternly prohibited. The Sabbath day dinner of baked beans, and baked Indian pudding, was kept hot in the oven, waiting the return of the family from church. Family prayers were duly observed on the Sabbath day, if they had small time allotted them on week-days. The sermon—text, heads, applications,—was rehearsed, more attention being paid to what was said than, as now, to the manner of saying it.

The vices and faults of the olden time were such as belong to a ruder, a less artificial state of society, than our present social surroundings. There was general friendliness of feeling ; kindly interest in one another. If a neighbor wanted the loan of a horse to go to meeting or to mill, to attend a funeral or to make a visit, such a favor was freely proffered. In case of family troubles, the neighbors would come in to talk over the affair, and to tender their advice as well as sympathy and help. Quarrels there were in neighborhoods and churches, often over very trivial matters, and kept up with persistent infatuation. But the average sentiment of the community was sturdily and steadily on the side of right and justice.

Poverty was not so much of a bar, as it is now, to position and welcome in general society. Tricks to defraud creditors, or to inveigle the unwary, were not so common as in these days of mad, reckless haste to be rich. There was no such opportunity as now, for the embezzlement of trust funds, and the gigantic stealing of railroads, by the very magnitude and audacity of the operation to dazzle the public into forgetfulness of the crime. Industry, honesty, energy, and economy, were regarded as the main reliance for the accumulation of wealth. There were distinctions and grades in society, and for a time, as in the old practice of "seating the meeting-house," and "dignifying the seats," an attempt to estimate and fix by some arbitrary standard, each person's social worth and rank. But such an attempt was contrary to the animating spirit of our social and political institutions, and it was abandoned as irritating and impracticable. The minister, as the one trained thinker of the community, made upon the people the impress of a higher life than earthly, a deeper life than the life of appearance, a power in righteousness to direct and govern the life, just as the church edifice, differing from and towering above the ordinary buildings, was a constant, silent witness for God and for the reality of His higher law. "The divine sovereignty" was a favorite topic in the religious talk of those days, as prominent as the modern scientist's disquisitions on the uniformity of the laws of nature. Dr. Shepard used to say of Dr. Hyde that "he was a born minister." Never was he unmindful of his high calling to a spiritual leadership. Duty was inculcated in the daily conduct of life, as earnestly and persistently as was the fundamental doctrine of the Gospel that for the attainment of life's great end there must be personal consecration to Christ as the only and all-sufficient Divine Redeemer. No one, young or old, could be absent from church, and expect that Dr.



Hyde would overlook it. "I did not see you in your place last Sabbath. Were you sick?" would be an inquiry sure to be made before another Sabbath came round. No event of marked importance could transpire in the family history, that the faithful pastor did not make an occasion for pertinent religious exhortation. Yet it was all done in such a spirit of kindly consideration and of personal interest, that no offence could be taken.

Strong drink was the cause of most of the thriftlessness of those days, as it is of the pauperism and crime of the present. All classes drank. Stimulants were supposed to be undeniably necessary. Farmers could not believe that their work would be better done, or done at all, without some "white-face," New England rum, or some "black-strap," rum sweetened with molasses. Toddy and flip were common beverages. Everybody drank, and only when manners and morals grew steadily worse, did any one recognize in the prevailing drinking usages of society, the source and head of the direful evils with which society was cursed. When Dr. Field came over from Stockbridge to attend some extra meeting in the East Lee school-house, he stopped at some house near by, to take something warm. Those that attended meeting, thought the preacher's eyes were brighter, and his tongue more glib, because of the extra good liquor that had been furnished him. At every meeting of the neighboring ministers at Dr. Hyde's, pipes and tobacco, glasses and the wine bottle were to be provided for the company. When John B. Perry, a son of the minister in Richmond, kept store in Lee, one of Dr. Hyde's sons was sent to get the bottle filled. "Seems to me," said the storekeeper, "those ministers drink a great deal." "Yes, they do;" was the reply, "there's one old codger by the name of Perry, that's a regular old soaker." It was

through the ministry and the pulpit, however, that the people were convinced of the evils of intemperance, and incited to take measures to put a stop to it. After the truth began to be recognized, old social customs were abandoned, yet not before many had gone down to the drunkard's grave, and irreparable injury had been done to children and to children's children.

## SOCIAL LIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CENTURY.

BY REV. E. W. BENTLEY, D. D.

THE interior life of Lee was moulded by two forces ; first, the character and circumstances of its founders and early settlers ; and secondly, by the Puritan idea of the supremacy of the church over the State. The early inhabitants of the town, for the most part, stood on a social and financial equality. None were very rich and few were very poor. And in education and general intelligence none towered much above the general level. The great majority of them were trained to industrious habits, and expected to get on in the world by honest and earnest hard work. Labor was in high repute among them, for by means of it alone could they conquer success in the strife for wealth and honor. Hence a man's industry was a large factor in computing the problem of his social position. And industry again was rated by the morality and intelligence which made it effective. Starting thus, and going forward side by side, those early neighbors kept well abreast of one another, and no great social distinctions grew up among them. If some succeeded better than others, there were yet few who failed altogether. They were at first mainly farmers, who coaxed and wrested their living from the grudging hands of their mother earth. In a neighborly way they helped one another, the man of many acres using the surplus labor of the smaller farmers, and they in turn, eking out their deficient harvests from the superabundance of the larger. And thus there grew up between them a sense of mutual dependence and a community of good feeling which kept down ambitious strifes and petty alienations. As for jealousies between crafts and tradesmen, there were too few of them, and one was too much beholden to another to admit of any great competition. The professional men who came among them were accepted for what they proved to be worth ; and they fortunately had the good sense to put on no airs. Conceding to the law that all labor is equally honorable, they arrogated nothing of superiority for head-work over hand-work. Hence the farmer and

lawyer were on social good terms, and the doctor and the blacksmith greeted one another with mutual respect.

Nor did this state of things change essentially as the "Center" grew, and the two phases of society, village life and farm, or country life stood side by side. The extremes of style and fashion never took deep root in the village; and in the essentials of culture and refinement the farmers' families never allowed themselves to fall far below the standard in the village. Hence there was never any "great gulf fixed" between the "country" and the "town." Social intercourse between them was constant. In all matters of public concern, they usually managed to see eye to eye. The farmer's jealousy of the villager, and the villager's impatience with the farmer, influences which have marred the development of more than one New England town, never attained to any formidable strength in Lee. There was always some compromise at hand to bridge over any differences of judgment between them. The entire population of the town were therefore held well together, and no local feuds or divisions existed among them. They had no men of great wealth to wield the money-power over them. They had no aristocratic "first families" who prided themselves on their "blue blood" and the long life of their genealogical tree. They had no famous names which overshadowed all other names, and superseded all other cards of introduction to places of honor and influence. On the contrary, they measured each other by a rule of positive worth, and leadership fell, as a general thing, to the most deserving.

The social life of Lee, as I knew it forty years ago, was exceedingly simple, and very little restricted by forms and ceremonies. Any man of known good character and an average common sense, found little difficulty in working his way into any circle. The larger and more formal "parties"—"receptions" were then unknown—or were not of frequent occurrence; since in the estimates of the more staid and sober, they savored of "worldly vanity." The givers of them were credited with a desire either to imitate "an ungodly world," or else to outshine their neighbors, which was an offense quite as intolerable. Yet when such a thing did occur, there was usually no lack of guests, the uncharitable ones being especially anxious to confirm their suspicions by ocular proof. But upon the more informal gatherings, no such restriction was laid. The young people met and mingled with great freedom. On these occasions the chief means of warding off stiffness and stupidity were the old-fashioned games of "Copenhagen," "button, button," "forfeits," and the like. Dancing was ruled out by public opinion, and they who were bold enough to engage in it, seldom cared to boast of their courage. Cards, and all

games of chance were strictly banned, being looked upon as the devil's own tools, and no respectable hands cared to touch them. In the country neighborhoods the nine o'clock bell was the usual signal for dispersion. For lovers, Sabbath evening was the day of the week for which all other days were made. Sunday began at the going down of the sun on Saturday, a custom which left the swain free to worship at the shrine of Cupid, unhampered by any fear of breaking the fourth commandment. And besides this, was he not, having "been to meeting" during the day, ready dressed for the service? As a result of this use of Sunday nights, there commonly appeared, sooner or later, beside the church door a brilliantly illuminated poster reading somehow thus: "O yes! O yes! Mr. Blank of this town and Miss So-and-so of this (or some other) town intend marriage. Attest, Ransom Hinman, Town Clerk." Never again will there shine forth such splendid "Publishments" as issued from the hand of that prince of penmen, Ransom Hinman. I recall a lady friend of those days, who said she was induced to name an earlier day than she had at first designated, by a sly suggestion of her "intended," that Mr. Hinman's term of office was about to expire and he might not be re-elected.

Among neighboring women, afternoon visits were much in vogue. They took their sewing or knitting with them and began their session as early as half-past two, or three o'clock; continuing it till "chore-time." The subjects discussed at these sittings took a wide range, from "New Measures" to "Navarino bonnets," and from the last Sunday's sermon to the virtues of "opedildoc" in cases of croup. The suppers—they had no "teas"—on these occasions, were models of housewifely skill and ingenuity, the hostess seeming to take it for granted that she was on trial before a jury of her peers. Sometimes the purpose of the visit was a "quilting," to which the older girls were also invited and stayed into the evening, when the boys were expected to come in and "assist" in their peculiar fashion. These not being full-dress occasions, calico gowns predominated with short waists and great puffed-out sleeves from the shoulders to the elbows. To these were added a "vandyke," and white lace caps with a border broad or narrow, according to the wearer's taste. The cloaks of these days hung straight from head to foot and were of a Scotch plaid pattern, with all the colors of the rainbow, and some that were not, crossing each other at right angles. The bonnets were of the "coal-scuttle" variety—although then no mortal could tell what a coal scuttle was like,—interspersed with the green "calash," which opened and shut like a modern carriage top. "Mitts," a sort of cross between a mitten and a glove, covered the hand and about an inch of each finger. Fashion,



no less imperious then than now, was still less fickle. Her moods—or modes—could then be predicted for the next six months with tolerable exactness.

The women of that day were notable workers. Modern Bridgetism had not tried their patience and unstrung their nerves; they were not tormented by sewing-machines and patent wringers; nor “worried to death” by dress-maker’s blunders, and twelve-buttoned gloves. And hence they found time and strength to spin their daily “run,” to weave the Winter’s need of homespun, and then to do much, if not all, the cutting and making of it into the Winter’s family-wear. How they found time for social intercourse, for self-culture, and for charitable work, must ever remain a mystery to the modern advocates of female suffrage. It suits the orators of to-day to praise the “Fathers of New England,” but whatever *they* were their mothers made them. Blowing aside a good deal of froth and foam it is possible to get at a deep residuum of substantial fact in what has been written and declaimed about New England influence and the soundness and worth of New England principles; but I venture to say that for what is characteristically good and distinctively influential in the “down East” nature and work; the world is indebted quite as much to New England mothers as to New England fathers.

The moral and religious life of Lee was shaped in a great measure by the other force which I have named. The old Puritan idea of a Commonwealth was a confederation of independent sovereignties. It made the town—an *autonomy* in itself—the basis of the State. In this system a town was a territory some six miles square, more or less, with a “meeting-house” in the geographical center of it; no matter if that center came upon the top of the highest rock in the township. And that meeting-house was the nucleus around which all interests in the town crystallized; and the center whence radiated all the influences that determined the town character and life. In it, or in close proximity to it, all public business of the town was transacted; and to it all residents of the township were expected to go up as regularly as the Sabbaths returned. And in Lee this pre-eminence of religious over secular concerns, was early established and long maintained. There may have been in it, or about it, a lingering relic of the old “Half-way covenant” notion, that a man must be conformed to the church in morals at least, if he would be qualified for preferment in the State, but certainly there was nothing of that in the theology that was preached. That was Calvinistic through and through. For nearly fifty years there was no competing creed in town; at least any that took on organic form. Whatever of dissent, disbelief, or unbe-



lief there was did not collect its forces and challenge public recognition. Hence the Congregational Church, under the continuous and systematic leadership of Dr. Hyde, went on with its work unmolested, and gave unquestioned law to public sentiment. Fortunately, Dr. Hyde was an honest man. He believed what he preached, and preached what he believed. He taught the faith that was in him, and taught it in such a way that his people knew it was in him. Accordingly they took in all that he gave them, doctrine, metaphysics, exegesis and all. Dr. Hyde trained up a townfull of theologians. Men, women and children discussed original sin and fore-ordination. And with honest Dr. Hyde, faith without works was dead; theory that did not lead on to practice was a mere tinkling cymbal. Lee people in those days were not literary; they did not multiply books and papers; and, therefore, Dr. Hyde's teachings were not overlaid and smothered by imported facts and notions. They had, or took, time during the week to examine and store away right side up, the lessons of the Sabbath, and as a general rule they put religion and morality in alternate layers. All practical subjects took on a moral, if not a religious, aspect. The question of expediency seldom went before, but usually followed after that of right and wrong. It was so in politics, in all matters of moral reform, and usually so in all business transactions. Certainly all violations of this practice were followed by a severe penalty. The man who did not go to meeting lost caste; a dishonest man was despised; a profane man or a hard drinker, was converted into an "awful example" and used "to point a moral or adorn a tale." In politics Lee was largely of one mind. All good children were born whigs, and it took a deal of other kinds of goodness to compensate for the sin of being a democrat. There may have been in those days political corruption in town affairs, but if so, it must have had a growth like that of plants in the dark. A man stained in character was rarely named for office; and if he was, he usually needed more votes than he got, to elect him. To indicate publicly any anxiety for an office always lessened one's chances; and to electioneer for one's self insured his defeat. The principle assumed and applied was that if the town wanted a man's services the town would elect him; and hence upon his nomination the candidate usually went home and kept silence. If he did not want the office he had but to hint to his neighbors that he would like to have them vote for him; and he was pretty sure not to be burdened with it.

But it was not altogether by his sermons that Dr. Hyde held the town together. His office itself gave him great strength. The ministry in those days was a divine institution, and not a mere device to

help men while away an otherwise idle hour on Sabbath morning. And Dr. Hyde magnified his office out of the pulpit as well as in. Directly or indirectly, he touched all town life and work. All revered him, all confided in him, all looked to him for sympathy in sorrow, and advice in trouble. In family visitation he came in contact with the children, and then "catechised" them in the district schools. And thus, after all, his pastoral work was his great work.

The Sabbath, in Lee, was scrupulously observed. Even those who did not go to meeting, spent it mainly within doors. But almost everybody attended public worship. The modern close-communion buggy, with its little too much room for one and not quite enough for two, had not then begun its devil's work of thinning out the churches. In all the outlying districts some one or more of the farmers had their large-boxed, lumber wagons in which they gathered up their carriageless neighbors, so that, "I couldn't go afoot," was no excuse when Dr. Hyde—as he was sure to do—came during the week to find out the reason for non-attendance. These side streams of wagons, emptying their drift into the larger channels, and these again into the main river, dashed a flood of worshippers around the old meeting-house at the second ringing of the bell on Sunday mornings. The services which ensued were simple and sober. The psalm or hymn was from Watts' version. The prayer was systematic, earnest, but slow and minute, and therefore long, measured by the modern standard. Special requests were often interpolated, now for some one sick and nigh unto death, then for some one in trial, and anon for some adventurous family about to undertake the perilous journey to the "Holland Purchase" or the far off "Western Reserve." The choir was large and backed by Capt. Lander's huge bass-viol, filled the great room with sonorous melody. Then was Mr. Hollister, the leader, wrapt into ecstasy and his whole person rose and fell with the cadences of the tune, like a waif on the billows of the sea. Sometimes Major Wilson came down from Lenox, and then the old fugue tunes roared and rattled, and the different parts chased one another up and down and played tag among themselves in a most bewildering way. Such inspiring song! No wonder the small boy of the period who tenanted the gallery, got excited now and then, and needed to be soothed by a touch of "Uncle Joe" Chadwick's horn-tipped rattan. The sermon was methodical and unadorned, but clear and pointed; and always closed with some definite instruction concerning the sinner's way to Christ.

After the morning service, the congregation resolved itself into a Sabbath-school. For many years Dea. Nathan Bassett superintended

it, and did his work grandly. Old and young, male and female, were formed into classes. My mother was in one, my father in another and myself in a third. Gray-headed men were in one-pew, and spectacled old ladies in another; and all were engaged in a common work. I have never seen another such Sabbath-school since. The half-hour between the school and the afternoon service, was devoted to "dinner" and talk. The Orthodox dinner on these occasions consisted of "cookies" well spiced with caraway seed; these being about the only kind of victuals that could be trusted in the pockets of the Sunday coat. At this time, also, in Winter, the foot-stove was replenished, its morning fire having succumbed to the length of the sermon, or to a want of draft. Meantime a diligent discussion was going on; sometimes of the sermon, sometimes of the Sunday-school lesson, and sometimes of some secular affair of general interest.

The afternoon sermon was usually upon some "lighter" topic than that of the morning; and if the morning discourse was upon a doctrinal subject we sometimes had the practical use of it set forth in the afternoon. The home-going was done staidly yet cheerfully, and the dinner, bountifully provided for on Saturday, was encountered by an appetite decidedly secular.

I had something in mind about the two great political Sundays—Fast and Thanksgiving days—which our governors used to give us in the Spring and Fall; but I pass them by. Great changes, I presume, have come over the town since the times of which I have spoken. Other churches, other ministers, other men and other forces have met and mingled there where the Puritan spirit, and Puritan ideas once reigned supreme and reigned alone. The interior life of Lee has doubtless grown broader and noisier, but I question if it has grown deeper and purer. If my view of it shall seem too rose-colored to be real, I have only to say that *perhaps* the haze of time may have dimmed the darker hues without shading at all the brighter ones.

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE poverty of the people, the sparseness of the population, the drain made by the war in the early history of the town, were evident obstacles to the religious progress of the community. Various traditionary stories perpetuate these characteristics of the primitive days.

"Old Mr. Swift visited the Bassetts soon after their

settlement here, and as he looked around him, exclaimed to his friends, "I think that you are very highly favored in this town." When asked "Why so?" he replied, "I have noticed that ministers and other good men always pray for the desolate parts of the earth, and I have no doubt but that you share in their prayers."

When David Baker left the Cape in 1780, he was a young man, and so desolate was this region then considered, that his pious mother remarked as he left her home, "David is going to Mount Ephraim, and he will never hear another sermon."

The act of incorporation did not require of the inhabitants as a condition of enjoying the "power, privileges and immunities" of other such incorporated towns, that they should settle a "Godly, learned, and Orthodox minister within three years." This crowning characteristic of the old Massachusetts town system was long delayed, though it was an almost constant item in the warrants for the town meetings, the business of the church being at that time transacted by the town. This intimate connection of church and town continued through the first half century of the town's history, and as most of the inhabitants were Congregationalists, no other church being established at the Center till after the death of Dr. Hyde in 1833, no apology is necessary for the prominence given to the Congregational Church in the early annals of the town. The history of the one is inseparably interwoven with that of the other.

The first sum of money which the town voted to raise was "for preaching the Gospel." The whole business transacted at the second town meeting 1778, January 8, was the vote "to raise the sum of £30 lawful money, to be laid out in preaching the Gospel. Voted, to choose three men for a Committee, to employ a preacher, and to pay him the above money that is voted—Jesse Bradley,



Oliver West, and Job Hamblin." The first religious meeting was held in Deacon Oliver West's barn, which stood where a *barn now* stands upon the old Wakefield place, near the burying-ground. The hay-mow constituted the orchestra. That old barn echoed in sweetest melody, with the divine songs sung by that choir in which the children of Jonathan Foote were the principal performers. In view of this fact, Nathan Dillingham, the then poet of Lee, perpetrated the following :

" David and Ase sing bass ;  
Jonathan and Fenner sing tenor ;  
'Vice and Sol beat them all."

1780, April 7, the town was in favor of securing a "Prispeartering Minister, and voted to settle Mr. Fowler, offering him £50 yearly for a "sallery," and £180 for a "settlement," not to be paid in coin, however, but in "country produce," prices to be good as money was in 1774. June 15, 1780, a committee was chosen to hire preaching for three months. It was "voted to raise £24 silver money, or the equivalent value thereof in Continental money to be assessed, and paid in before August 1, next, and if any man refuses to be assessed, he is to apply to the assessors, and they are not to assess him." It must be remembered that this was during the very darkest period of the Revolutionary War, when the people seemed almost wearied out with a fruitless struggle, and no hope of speedy and triumphant issue had yet begun to dawn. There can be no doubt of the "liberality" of the religious sentiment that was ready to pass such a vote. There must have been from the great variety of origin and character in the first settlers, a great variety of religious sentiment.

A Congregational Church was organized 1780, May 25, very independently, as appears from the record. No



council seems to have been called. "The Professors of religion in the town of Lee, met and formed themselves into a church, the Rev'd Mr. Daniel Collins of Lanesborough being present at their request to assist in forming them." They numbered 38 members, 14 men, and 24 women. After being organized, they appointed a committee to invite a council to attend the ordination of Mr. Abraham Fowler, as Pastor, June 8. The churches invited were Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, Lenox, Pittsfield, Lanesborough and Williamstown. But the church was doomed to a great disappointment, from which it did not apparently recover for a long time. So many in the town enlisted in a remonstrance against Mr. Fowler, that the council refused to ordain him.

1780, December 27, the town voted to raise money for preaching to be paid Mr. Catlin. 1781, May 18, £40 raised to pay Mr. Kirkland for preaching. A vote passed in April, 1780, "to exempt all the Churchmen and Baptists, and the Quakers from settling and supporting a Presbyterian minister in town," was renewed at this time. It indicated the heterogeneous character of the community, and the difficulty of united action in religious matters in the town meetings. 1782, February 5, a committee was chosen to "apply to Mr. Elisha Parmelee to come and preach to us." November 29, voted to hire preaching till March 1, and the committee were instructed to apply to Mr. Catlin, if he could not be obtained "to use their Dischression." 1783, May 12, when the question was put in regard to granting the request of a petition against supporting Mr. Parmelee, 19 voted in favor of doing this, 39 against it. After a few records of admission and baptism we read, "1783, July 3, Mr. Elisha Parmele was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry and pastoral charge of this church." A paper protesting against this action and signed by 21 persons was

presented to the council, but Mr. Parmele's views in regard to future punishment were pronounced scriptural and right. The objections made by believers in universal salvation were adjudged to be groundless, but the council thought best to ordain him. July 5, £60 voted to hire preaching.

1784, May 18, the church voted leave of absence to Mr. Parmele, whose health had failed. He proposed to take a journey to Virginia. It was mutually agreed that Pastor and church might enter into new engagement if opportunity offered. Mr. Parmele was sound in the faith, amiable in his manners; highly respected for his piety and talents. But from the failure of his health, his ministry was of short duration. While traveling in pursuit of health, he met death with hardly a moment's warning, when in Virginia at the country-seat of Col. Abraham Bird, August 2, 1784, when nearly 100 miles short of the place he intended to reach. He was only 29 years old.

For eight years the church was without a pastor; many candidates employed; many attempts unsuccessfully made to settle some one as pastor.

1784, November 23, the Committee were instructed "to agree with Mr. Storer to preach as long as he will agree for." 1785, March 28, Mr. Hatch was to be employed still longer, six Sabbaths if possible. £60 voted to procure preaching. 1785, August 14, Mr. Kirkland preached. 1785, October 30, Mr. Lord was "applied to," to preach. November 17, those present at the meeting were equally divided as to whether he should preach longer. 1786, March 13, the Committee were instructed to apply to Mr. Warren. 1786, June 25, Mr. Monson, the minister of Lenox, preached. July 14, it was proposed to send to Mr. Haskell, but no vote was taken. July 18, Dr. Beebe was invited. July 31, Mr.

Haskell was asked to preach "while he conveniently can." September 21, when the vote was taken, there was a division of opinion, 56 being in favor of Dr. Beebe, 23 in favor of Mr. Haskell. November 1, Dr. Beebe was asked to preach "a spell longer." November 20, Mr. Haskell was invited to preach 4 Sabbaths. 1787, September—the Committee was instructed to send for Mr. Mills. September 25, they were instructed to secure Mr. Calvin White "as long as they can." November 30, the town voted to unite with the church in giving a call to Mr. White. 1788, February 11, the Committee were to apply to Mr. Collins "to preach with a view to settle." April 6, Mr. Avery preached, the minister of Alford, and afterwards of Tyringham. May 7, £50 voted for preaching. 1788, September 8, the committee were to apply to Mr. Holt. This application resulted in the town's voting 50 affirmative, 1 negative to concur in calling Mr. Holt. The terms offered were £80 yearly salary, and £200 settlement.

In January, 1789, the town voted to apply to Mr. William Miller. March 1, there was a unanimous call voted to Mr. Miller as also by the Church March 16, on the same terms as those offered to Mr. White. 1789, May 11, either Mr. Pratt, was to be engaged for six Sabbaths more, or Mr. Crocker of New Haven. 1790, January 4, Mr. Lee of Salisbury was to be asked to preach. May 4, Mr. Mead, after his journey to Boston, was to be secured to preach. 1790, September 23, the town appointed a committee to treat with regard to making some alterations in the Church covenant—a most unusual instance of a town's interference with what is now considered the special province of every church or society. 1790, September 27, in answer to a communication from the town, the Church voted to "give up or lay by their covenant, and take the Bible alone for their rule of government,"

but voted also, that "grace is a necessary qualification for communion." The Church had excommunicated Deacon Bradley, 1788, June 26, for denying eternal punishment, and sent a committee, 1790, July 29, "to converse with Mr. Penoyer respecting his ideas of all mankind's being finally happy." 1791, March —, Mr. Abel Jones was called, on the same salary as had been offered to others. July 25, Mr. Stephen Williams was engaged for four Sabbaths. A vote to give him "a call" was passed, 76 for it, 5 opposing. The salary offered was £60 the first four years, then £80. A settlement of £200 was to be paid in grain, cattle, or bar-iron. Or he might have £100 a year with no settlement. Or, he was offered, £90 annual salary, with the improvement of a parsonage containing convenient lands and buildings within a suitable distance from the meeting-house, so long as he shall continue to be our minister. It may be noted here that Dr. West of Stockbridge, in 1775, had a salary of £80, yet such was the pressure of poverty, that during the war he was one year not paid at all.

1791, December 19, it was voted, 82 affirmative, 3 negative, that the Committee should apply to Mr. Hyde to preach longer. He had been introduced to the people by Rev. Mr. Williams of Dalton, at whose house he was visiting. 1792, February 23, the Church met and voted unanimously to give Mr. Alvan Hyde a call to the pastoral charge. 1792, March 5, the town voted to call Mr. Hyde, "85 to 29 neuters and against, including other persuasions;" £200 settlement was offered, £50 yearly for four years. £60 salary the first year to be increased £5 yearly till the salary should reach £80. May 8, William Ingersoll, Esq., Dea. Oliver West, John Nye, Levi Nye, Nathan Dillingham, Capt. Josiah Yale, were appointed a Committee "to provide articles for the ordination of Mr. Hyde." June 5, the council met. Dr.



West of Stockbridge was moderator, Dr. Backus of Somers preached the sermon. It would seem that the Church was not suitable or not large enough. The record reads, "June 6, 1792, the council proceeded to a convenient stage erected for the purpose, and solemnly consecrated Mr. Hyde to the sacred office."

The Committee above named, were requested to consult Mr. Hyde on the subject of purchasing land for him. With the advice of this Committee, the young pastor bought of Mr. Abraham Howk 54 acres, and commenced building the house which he occupied during his long pastorate of forty-one years. His salary of £60 (\$200) would not seem to justify the enterprise, but he had secured the affections of the people, and they encouraged his building, and contributed liberally in lumber and other material. Capt. Nathan Ball said to him, "We will all help you, and I will bring you a little honey every year," a promise which he never failed to keep. Money was a scarce article in those days, and a little went a long way. The house was not completed for several years, and when he moved into it with his bride in 1793, his bed-room was well ventilated, as it was open up to the rafters.

It is painful to any one who has familiarized himself with the early history of our New England towns, to see how much of the time of ministers and people was spent in unpleasant controversies. While the Congregational polity fostered independence of thought and feeling, its freedom from ecclesiastical rubrics opened wide opportunities for unreasonable and fractious spirits to hinder what they did not wish to help. When, as was the case in Lee, there was no community of sentiments and of interest, the wonder is, not that any unity of action was so long delayed, but that any united action was at any time possible. The young preacher had no flattering prospects before him, when he began his work as pastor of a

feeble church and a heterogeneous community. But with God's blessing, discouragements and difficulties were overcome. Patient continuance in well-doing brought about at last a different condition of affairs. The church and the community felt the gentle, steady pressure of the moulding hand. "We have been very Shaysy here," said Mr. Cornelius Basset to the young pastor, "and you'll have to be wise as a serpent to keep the peace among us." Peace, however, was maintained between pastor and people, and the dissensions among the latter gradually decreased. Mr. Hyde preached the truth in love, and a powerful revival of religion soon after his ordination, greatly strengthened the church, and tended to harmony in society generally. This was the beginning of a series of revivals, which continued all through Dr. Hyde's ministry, and made his church at the time of his death, one of the largest in Western Massachusetts. The little "meeting-house" soon became too strait for the increasing congregation, and in 1800, the large and, for the times, beautiful church edifice, which lasted till 1857, was erected. A more particular account of the church edifices is given elsewhere.

Dr. Hyde's father was Joseph Hyde, a farmer in Franklin, Conn., originally called Norwich Farms. He was born in that town February 2, 1768. His mother died when he was six years old. When he was 14 years old he began to prepare for College. His pastor, Rev. Dr. Nott, was his teacher. He entered Dartmouth College in 1784, and graduated in 1788. In 1786 he united with the College Church. He taught school one year in Northampton, and then commenced the study of theology under Rev. Dr. Backus at Somers, Conn. He was licensed to preach by the Tolland County Consociation, June, 1790. Part of the two following years he studied theology under Rev. Dr. West, of Stockbridge. He was

ordained pastor of the church in Lee, June 6, 1792. He was married April 25, 1793, to Miss Lucy Fessenden, of Sandwich. She was a sister of Mrs. Nathan Dillingham, of Lee. When some rumors of the approaching marriage began to be whispered, one of the sisterhood in the church undertook to inquire of Dr. Hyde whether the report was true. "I know it's none of my business," she began, "but I should like to know." "If it is not your business," was his reply, "why do you make it your business?"

The first year of his pastorate here was a general revival of religion, and 110 were added to the church. This brought into the membership most of the leading men in the town, and throughout the forty years of his ministry, the weight of social influence was on the side of the church. There were 21 male members at the time of his settlement. From being small and feeble and divided, the church grew to be one of the largest and strongest in this part of the State. He died, as he had desired to do, in the midst of his usefulness. After he had preached a Thanksgiving Sermon, November, 1833, an attack of pneumonia prostrated him, and he never entered the pulpit again. His illness made rapid progress, and December 4, 1833, "he fell asleep," aged sixty-five years, ten months, and two days.

Years before he died, Dr. Hyde was commonly spoken of as "venerable." He was naturally sedate; in temperament, a marked contrast to his life long-friend and neighbor, Rev. Dr. Shepard, of Lenox. His whole demeanor conveyed the impression of eminent spirituality and sanctity. He was a prudent man in his measures, and of well balanced judgment. As a preacher, he was not oratorical, but simple and solemn. When the truth he uttered was evidently taking effect, he would say, "I pause"—and many a sinner has had solemn thoughts

during these pauses. While not demonstrative, he was searching. In the times of special religious interest, which were frequent under his ministry, his pungent directness brought the truth very close to his hearer's conscience. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Dartmouth College in 1812. He was invited often to attend ecclesiastical councils, where, as in the ordinary association meetings, his opinion was valued as the expression of a discriminating and deliberate judgment.

He was several times urged to stand as a candidate for the Presidency of Williams College, and to take a professorship of theology. But his sympathies and his judgment bound him to the people and the pastorate in Lee. Between thirty and forty young men pursued their studies for the ministry under his care. Both young and old were strongly attached to him, regarding him with loving reverence as one worthy of all respect and confidence. He was of medium height, and of substantial build, in his countenance and demeanor conveying an immediate impression of solemnity and benignity, which became the abiding impression of all who knew how affectionate and sympathizing was his heart, what propriety and consistency there was in his conduct in all his domestic and social relations.

1834, May 2, the church voted to call Rev. J. N. Danforth. The council for his installation met June 17. Rev. Dr. Shepard, of Lenox, was chosen Moderator, and he also preached the sermon. Rev. James Bradford, of Sheffield, was the Scribe. The council met on Tuesday, organized, and then examined the pastor elect. Wednesday morning they met for a season of prayer, and in the afternoon the installation services were duly performed. This custom of taking two days for the installation of a pastor, was kept up in this part of the state, and was the arrangement when Dr. Gale, in 1853, was installed.



When Mr. Danforth was installed, the charge to the Pastor was given by Dr. Field, of Stockbridge; the Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. Edwin W. Dwight, of Richmond; the Address to the People, by Rev. James Bradford, of Sheffield. Soon after Mr. Danforth's installation, and agreeably to a vote of the church, an eight days' protracted meeting was held, October 16-24. That was a new measure in those days, as novel an arrangement as the Tabernacle meetings of Messrs. Moody and Sankey in Boston. The strong Calvinistic expressions of the old creed of the church, seemed to some to require modification and the 11th article in which the grace of God, which was described originally "as a free, unpromised, sovereign gift," was, to meet their wishes, amended by the omission of the epithet "unpromised." After a pastorate of four years, Mr. Danforth resigned, 1838, March 7, and was dismissed with cordial testimonials to his fidelity and success, by a council which met 1838, March 28.

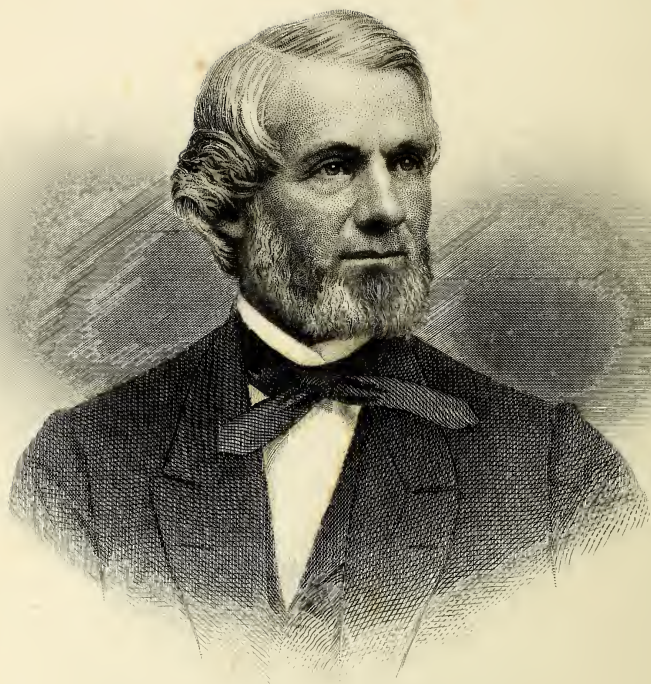
Joshua Noble Danforth was the son of Hon. Joshua Danforth, of Pittsfield, who was an officer in the Revolution; his mother was a daughter of Hon. David Noble, of Williamstown. Born in Pittsfield, 1792, young Danforth fitted for college at Lenox Academy, and graduated at Williams in 1818. After completing the course of theological study at Princeton, his first settlement in the ministry was at Newcastle, Delaware, and his next at Washington, D. C. He had left this and was acting as Agent of the Colonization Society, when he received the call to succeed Dr. Hyde. After leaving Lee, he became pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, at Alexandria, Va. He resigned this, and became a second time an agent for the Colonization Society, continuing in this till just before his death, which occurred at Newcastle, Del., November 14, 1861. He received the degree of D. D., in 1855 from Newark College, Del.

During the year 1839, the church voted, though unsuccessfully, to call Rev. Robert McEwen, and then with like ill success, Rev. H. N. Brinsmade, of Pittsfield, Rev. Laurens P. Hickok, of Hudson, Ohio, Rev. Leonard E. Lathrop, of Auburn, N. Y. They voted, 1840, January 24, to call Rev. W. B. Bond, and the call being accepted, the council for his installation met March 18. Rev. Dr. Shepard, was Moderator: Rev. T. S. Clarke, of Stockbridge, Scribe; the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Osgood, of Springfield; the charge was given by the Moderator: and the Right Hand, by Rev. Mr. Brinsmade. After a 6 years' pastorate Rev. Mr. Bond resigned 1846, March 18, and was dismissed April 8. Mr. Bond is still living, and is pastor of the church in New Braintree, Mass. He has many warm friends in Lee, and was present at the Centennial Celebration.

1846, October 23, the Church voted to call Rev. Ralph Smith of Curtisville, and the council for his installation met December 8. Rev. T. S. Clarke of Stockbridge, was Moderator, and preached the sermon; Rev. E. B. Andrews of Housatonic, the Scribe, gave the Right Hand; Rev. J. W. Turner of Great Barrington, gave the Charge; and Rev. Henry Neill of Lenox, the Address. Rev. Mr. Smith resigned 1850, November 8, and was dismissed December 4, and died at Saugerties, N. Y., November 2, 1867, aged 57.

Ralph Smith was born on Long Island, November 24, 1810; graduated at Williams College, 1830, and then studied medicine at New Haven; was ordained pastor of the church at Curtisville, June 26, 1844. After leaving Lee, he preached at Milton, Conn. From September, 1851, till May, 1855, he was pastor at Cornwall, Conn.; then stated supply at Trumbull, Conn.; pastor at Wolcottville, from April, 1856, to September, 1857; at New Canaan, from May, 1860, to April, 1864. Mr. Smith was





Engraved by A. H. Ritchie.

Truly Yours  
Nathaniel Gale



a man of more than ordinary ability. He was an original thinker and a close observer of men and things, but not a systematic student. Some of his sermons showed genius of a high order, but he often neglected preparation for the Sabbath till Saturday evening, and as a consequence his pulpit performances were not always up to his own standard. As a pastor, also, he failed in some essential particulars, but his most intimate friends cherish his memory with great respect.

1851, February 14, the Church invited Rev. Sereno D. Clarke to become their pastor, and he was installed by a council that met June 10, 1851. Rev. Heman Humphrey, D. D., was Moderator, and preached the sermon; Rev. W. H. Phelps of Curtisville, Scribe; Rev. Samuel Harris gave the Right Hand; Rev. Dr. Todd, the Charge; Rev. Henry Neill, the Address. At the first anniversary of his installation, June 11, 1852, the pastor tendered his resignation, and was dismissed by council, June 22. Mr. Clarke was a scholar, a good preacher, and faithful pastor, but for some reason never seemed to feel at home in Lee, and though during his pastorate there was unusual religious interest, he did not incline to stay long enough to harvest the fruit of his labors. He is still living, devoting much of his time to literary pursuits. He writes a strong magazine article, and has published several works that reflect credit upon their author.

1853, July 4, a unanimous call was extended to Rev. Nahum Gale, Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the Theological Institute at East Windsor, Conn. The council for his installation met, 1853, August 31. Rev. Dr. Field was Moderator, and gave the Charge; Rev. W. H. Phelps, Scribe; Rev. Dr. Tyler preached the Sermon; Rev. Mr. Harris of the South Church, Pittsfield, gave the Right Hand; and Rev. Dr. Todd the Address to the People. Dr. Gale's pastorate continued till his death, which

occurred September, 18, 1876. The outline facts of Dr. Gale's life are as follows: Born at Auburn, Mass., March 6, 1812; removed to Worcester in early life, where he was apprenticed to learn the carpenters' trade; becoming interested in religion, he determined to get an education and be an ambassador for Christ; fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover; graduated at Amherst College in 1837; taught the Amherst Academy two years; graduated from East Windsor Seminary in 1841; was ordained at Ware, Mass., June 22, 1842; married Martha Tyler, daughter of Rev. Dr. Bennett Tyler, August 10, 1843; became professor in East Windsor Theological Seminary in 1851, and was installed pastor of the Congregational Church in Lee, September 1, 1853.

Dr. Gale was no ordinary man. His intellect was naturally vigorous, and he strengthened it by diligent study and by intercourse with intelligent society. He had the rare executive faculty of making the most of himself and of all by whom he was surrounded. His long pastorate of twenty-three years in Lee, left an impression on the church and society, second only to that of Dr. Hyde. His forte, as he said himself, was in the pulpit, and not in parochial visits. When stimulated by congenial society, his conversational powers were of a high order. He had a wonderful store of facts and anecdotes in his memory, and could recall those pertinent to the occasion and the topic under discussion. This rendered his conversation brilliant and humorous. This humor, however, never cropped out in the pulpit. There he was always grave. His preaching was logical rather than emotional. To the cause of missions he was ardently devoted; was a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and seldom, if ever failed to be present at the annual meetings. Education also received from him its due share of attention. At the

time of his death, he was a 'Trustee of Williams College, and had been for fifteen years. He died in the midst of his usefulness, sincerely mourned by his church and congregation, who erected a fitting monument to his memory.

February 13, 1877, the church and parish united very harmoniously in extending a call to Rev. Lyman S. Rowland of Saratoga, N. Y., to become their pastor. The call was accepted, and he was installed April 5. President Seelye of Amherst College, preaching the installation sermon. Dr. Gale was so able a preacher, and held so prominent a place in church and society, that it was feared it would be difficult to find a successor to fill the position, but Mr. Rowland received an unanimous call, and has steadily gained in the affection and respect of his people since his installation.

#### BENEVOLENT OPERATIONS.

1797, April 4, the church voted that it would be expedient to do everything in their power to encourage and forward the design of the New York Missionary Society, and that a contribution should be proposed the next Sabbath. The sum collected, April 16, was \$32.50, a liberal contribution for those times, which was forwarded to the New York Missionary Society. Contributions continued to be made occasionally to the Foreign Mission Cause, gradually increasing in amount, till the organization of the American Board in 1810, when more systematic efforts took the place of spasmodic contributions.

The Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society was formed 1798, February 21, and up to 1829, its collections amounted to \$13,776.03. Of this sum, Lee contributed \$708.73. The Church, after this time, sends its contributions directly to the American Home Missionary Society. Of this latter organization, Lee has ever been a

faithful auxiliary, the annual contributions for Home Missions through this channel, now amounting to over six hundred dollars.

The Berkshire Bible Society was organized, 1817, June 17, one year after the institution of the American Bible Society, and Lee has ever been one of the foremost of its auxiliaries, though the contributions of late years have not increased in the same ratio with those to Foreign and Home Missions, indeed, they have decreased. The annual donations for the past few years have amounted to about \$100.

1825, June 15, the Berkshire Missionary Society was formed, auxiliary to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with auxiliaries in the several towns of the county. Lee took an active interest in the cause of missions at an early day, the young men forming an association to work for its support. The plan was to take a piece of land and raise corn upon it, the proceeds of which were devoted to the cause of missions. After the establishment of the Lee Auxiliary Missionary Society, the mode of raising funds by personal solicitation was adopted, and solicitors, both male and female, were appointed in each school district. The result was a large increase in the amount of contributions, and the flow of benevolence in this direction was still further augmented when Dr. Gale became pastor of the Congregational Church. The amount now annually contributed to Foreign Missions by the united effort of the gentlemen and ladies' associations, does not vary much from \$1,000. Smaller sums are also annually contributed to the American Missionary Association, the American Tract and Education Societies, the Congregational Union and the Congregational Publishing organizations.



## COLONIZING A NEW CHURCH.

1811, June 2, the Church, in giving letters to Jedediah Crocker and wife, Mrs. Moses Hall, and Mrs. Abijah Crosby, about to remove to Ohio, expressed their opinion that it was expedient for them to settle near those going from Lenox, and form themselves into a church. Such a church was actually constituted in this town—a part of the members connected with the Congregational Church of Dover, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, having been till then members of the Church in Lee.

## THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

The Lee Congregational Sunday-School was organized about the time when the interest of the Massachusetts churches was first aroused in the question of providing public religious instruction on the Sabbath for the young. In Dr. Hyde's hand-writing in the Church records, we read:—"June 10, 1819, at a Church meeting, the pastor introduced the subject of Sabbath-Schools, and after free conversation it was voted to establish one in this town. The following brethren were chosen a Committee to make arrangements for that purpose, viz.: Josiah Yale, Deacon David Ingersoll, Oliver Kellogg, Asahel Foote, Ephraim Sheldon, Jared Ingersoll, and Josiah Spencer." The School was organized soon after, at the Center School-house; and when the classes were formed, marched in procession to the Church. Deacon Josiah Spencer, who removed to the West in 1832, was the first Superintendent. The recitations of the scholars were their own selections from the Bible, and from Dwight's hymn book. The second Summer, Hannah Crosby (now Mrs. Henry Smith) recited 6,000 verses, and received a prize. The number of scholars was 60 to 70, mostly between the age of eight and fifteen. Deacon Spencer soon established a branch school at South Lee. For several years a

Committee was annually appointed to revive the Sabbath-School, which was suspended during the Winter season. In 1826, June 9, "the Church voted to become the Sabbath-School Society of Lee, and to be an auxiliary to the Massachusetts Sabbath-School Union." 1829, April 17, when the School numbered 230, and 70 more were in Bible classes, Deacon Nathan Bassett was chosen by the Church, Sunday-School Superintendent; William Porter, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer; Abner Taylor, Librarian. The Church had voted, 1824, September 9, that some part of the semi-annual collection for the American Education Society be appropriated to the purchase of books and tracts for the children belonging to the Sabbath-School.

Committees some years appointed to bring in scholars would largely increase the numbers in spite of interruptions occasioned by the death or removal of pastors. When Deacon Caleb Belden was chosen Superintendent, special efforts were made to furnish clothing to any poor children. In 1853, when Dr. Gale became pastor, the library was small, the different classes had different lessons, the children were fewer than now, the singing was chiefly by adults, and the Sunday-school concerts were seldom attended by the children. In 1861 and 1862, class-books were kept, and the number of verses learned, marked. New books were added to the library of a higher grade, and a new system of library registration adopted. Christmas was observed with festivities appropriate for children. In the Spring of 1867, many of the scholars felt the breathings of a better life. Seventy-five from the school during the period of five years preceding and including this, connected themselves with the church. Benevolent contributions increased year by year. Previous to 1857, the amount annually collected, averaging \$50.00. With increasing experience the management of the Sunday-school improved, and this was seen not only in the mode

of instruction, but also in better question-books, and an enlarged library. The Semi-Centennial of the school was celebrated with appropriate exercises, 1869, December 23. Dr. Gale's address and the other proceedings, so far as they could be made a matter of record, were published by vote of the church. The school has for some years past supported a teacher among the freedmen, making its donation through the American Missionary Association, by whom the teacher is appointed. At no period of its history was the Sunday-school doing better work than under its present management.

#### SINGING IN CHURCH.

In addition to what Dr. Gale has said of the arrangements for singing in the old meeting-house, special credit should be given to the people of those early days of poverty and struggle, who yet were determined not only to build a meeting-house second to none in the county for elegance and convenience, but also to secure as good instruction as the times could afford for the better performance of the service of praise. 1802, November 1, \$40.00 were voted to support singing under the direction of the Selectmen. Their varied duties and responsibilities made their office no sinecure. To be "Musical Director" in these days is supposed to require some knowledge of the art: but perhaps this putting responsibility upon officials brought out latent talent as giving everybody the right of suffrage, is supposed to develop good qualities as citizens.

1783, July 18, the church "chose Mr. David Ingersoll, choriester." The town afterwards made special appropriation for singing, as for instance, in 1812, May 4, voting for this purpose \$60.00. Alvan and William Ingersoll, sons of Deacon David Ingersoll, were prominent singers and leaders. Among others remembered as

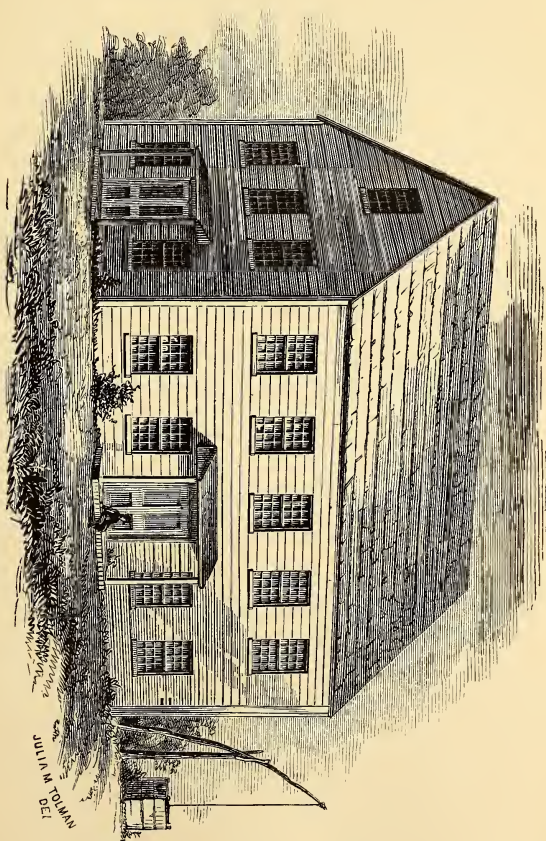
prominent in the service of song in the earlier days, are Abner Taylor, Sylvanus Foote, Ebenezer Bradley, Gurdon J. Hollister, and Capt. James Landers.

The only instrumental accompaniment for many years,—and even that was regarded by many as an abomination when first introduced,—was the bass viol, which for more than a score of years was played by Capt. Landers. He guarded it as carefully as he would a favorite child, bringing it with him every Sabbath from his home, and arousing approving admiration by his masterly handling of the well-rosined bow. Capt. Hollister occasionally played the flute, but the bass-viol was for a long period regarded as the all-sufficient accompaniment to the voices of the singers as they led in the choral harmonies of Old Hundred and Duke Street, or in the different parts chased each other in the favorite fugue tunes of Northfield or Lenox. In 1852, an organ was placed in the church at an expense of \$1,300, which amount was raised by subscription, many members of the church and parish objecting to praising God with wind instruments. This organ was burned with the church in 1857, but was replaced by a larger and better one the following year.

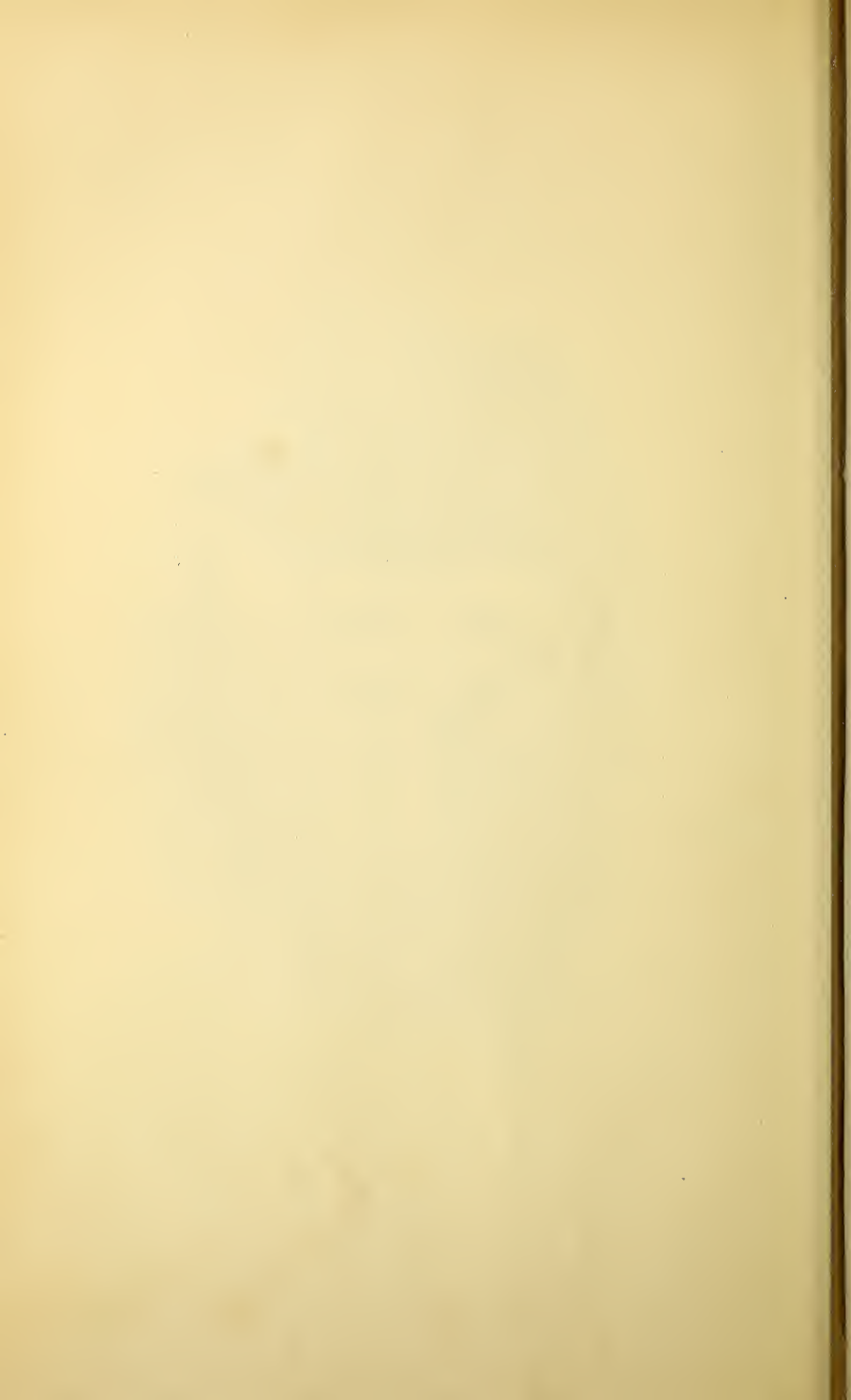
#### CHURCH EDIFICES.

“The first religious meeting, as has been said, was held in Deacon Oliver West’s barn. The meeting was afterwards held in Peter Wilcox’ barn, which stood in the rear of what is now Dr. Wright’s house on Main street. The meetings were held in Mr. Wilcox’ barn, and in the unfinished chamber of Lyman Foote’s house, until 1780, when they were held in the meeting-house, then first built. The town voted, 1778, November 16, “to build a meeting-house, 48 by 36, and that £700 be raised to defray the expense.” This vote was not carried into effect, for the next year, December 7, 1779, the town





FIRST CHURCH.—BUILT IN 1780.



passed the following votes: "To build a meeting-house in and for the use of the town, of 50 feet long, and 36 feet wide. That Hope Davis, Job Hamblin, Oliver West, Peter Wilcox, Levi Nye, Samuel Porter, Prince West, Daniel Church, and Noah Crocker, be a committee to build a meeting-house, where the town shall agree to set it, and sell the pew spots at a public vendue, except the town will agree to pay them some other way." "Voted, to set the meeting-house where the last committee set the stake."

The building committee were required to give bonds to the town, probably that they would build according to the votes. The various contradictory motions passed 1781, August 28, will show the tribulations and perplexities of a building committee, aggravated by a more than ordinary amount of human perversity in the people of the town.

"A motion made to see if the town will take the meeting-house of the committee, and pay their cost; passed in the negative."

"Motion made, to see if the town will sell the seat ground, to pay the cost of finishing the meeting-house, passed in the negative."

"Motion to see if the town will raise any sum of money to lay out on the meeting-house, passed in the negative."

The town voted, 1784, January 13, to chose a "committee to take into consideration the affairs of the building the meeting-house, and see whether the former committee have fulfilled their agreement. This investigating committee either did not find affairs to their mind, or the town had no mind to discharge them from their unfinished trust, for in March, there was "no vote to give up the bond to the committee, who built the meeting-house."

The next year, May, 1785, the town "voted to choose

a committee of three men, to settle with the committee that built the meeting-house." After appointing this settling committee, questions came up respecting "the bond," "alterations in the inside," and selling the pew next to the pulpit stairs. "At an adjourned meeting, the meeting-house was accepted, the bond given up, and the committee allowed to sell 'pew-spots,' according to their contract with the town. At the same meeting, the town raised £18 to pay for a pew and pew spot, next the pulpit stairs, and gangway leading into the west porch." The word gangway, here applied to an aisle of a church, indicates that seamen's language was brought to these mountains from "the Cape." The pew was bought for the use of the minister, when the town should have one; and as they had no minister at this time, two of the people were allowed to "improve the pew" at the customary rent till it should be wanted.

When the proposition was made, a fortnight later, that the town "purchase the whole of the meeting-house," it was negatived, nor would the town vote to raise £50 "to finish the meeting-house." Yet in November it was "voted to raise £50 for flagging the meeting-house and building seats in the same." 1789, May 11, the town "voted to raise £9 to pay Peter Wilcox for the land on which the meeting-house stands." The question of finishing the meeting-house, and even of enlarging it, came up very often for the next eight years. 1796, April, it was voted that individuals shall have the privilege of building pews in the porch alleys, and selling them toward defraying the expense. It is doubtful if any one took advantage of this vote to speculate in church property, for the question of building a new meeting-house took the place of all questions pertaining to the old one.

The location of the first church is fixed by the site of the well dug near it. It was built on the east side of what



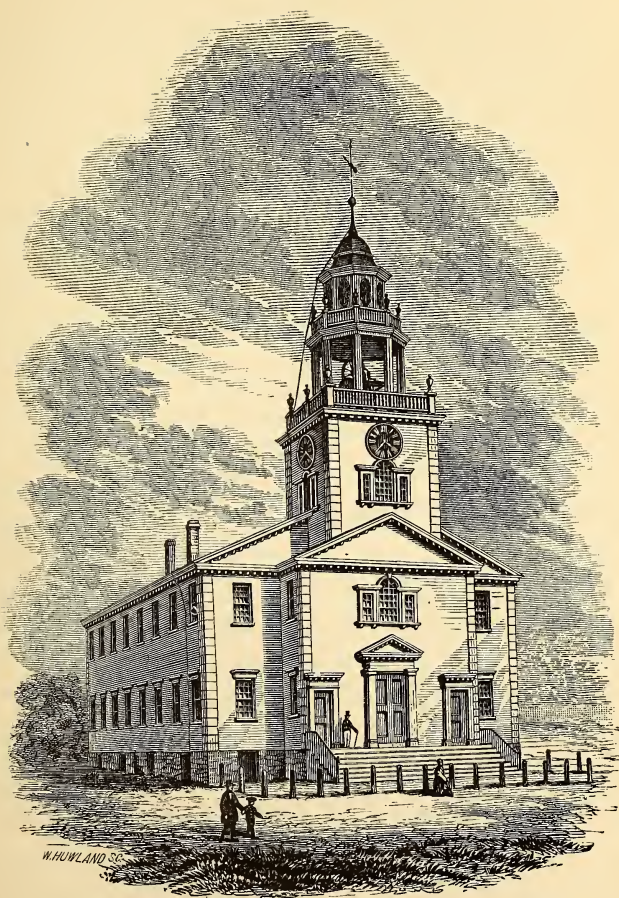
is now the park, and faced the south. The road as it turns the corner, east of the park, passes over the old well. There was no steeple, nor tower, nor bell. The sides were sheathed up with wide unpainted boards. There was a projection or porch in front, 8 feet wide, extending over one-third the width of the building. Similar projections were put up over the other doors on the east and the west ends. For several years, the meeting-house had no glass windows, no stationary seats, no door-step, and never was lathed. The style of architecture, says Dr Gale, was "of the composite order, a combination of what may be called the square box and primitive Gothic." The frame, composed of massive timbers, rough as the woodman's axe left them, was all exposed from the floor to the ridge pole. Through the triangles made by the braces, staging poles were inserted, and on this roost, spanning the room, a daring boy is known to have perched on the Sabbath, remaining there through the afternoon service. The square pews occupied the larger part of the floor. There were galleries on three sides: in the front of each gallery was one long seat: back of this seat in the side galleries were four square pews; in the rear of the seat in the end gallery, three such pews. The singers stood in the front seat, with their leader. On one side of the only door of entrance sat Daniel Santee, the negro, with his long cane in hand, and Betty, his wife, sat on the other side of the door. Daniel faithfully kept the unruly dogs out of the church, and was a terror also to all roguish boys within. In a plain pulpit, fastened to the north end of the house, midway from the floor to the plates stood the young minister. Over the pulpit was the indispensable sounding-board, for in those days it was thought that the voice of the preacher would not descend to the pews, if there was not something over his head to prevent the sound from rising. No cushions

relieved the discomfort of the rude seats; no stove quieted the chattering teeth during the cold Berkshire winters. Such was the place in which for twenty years our fathers worshipped God."

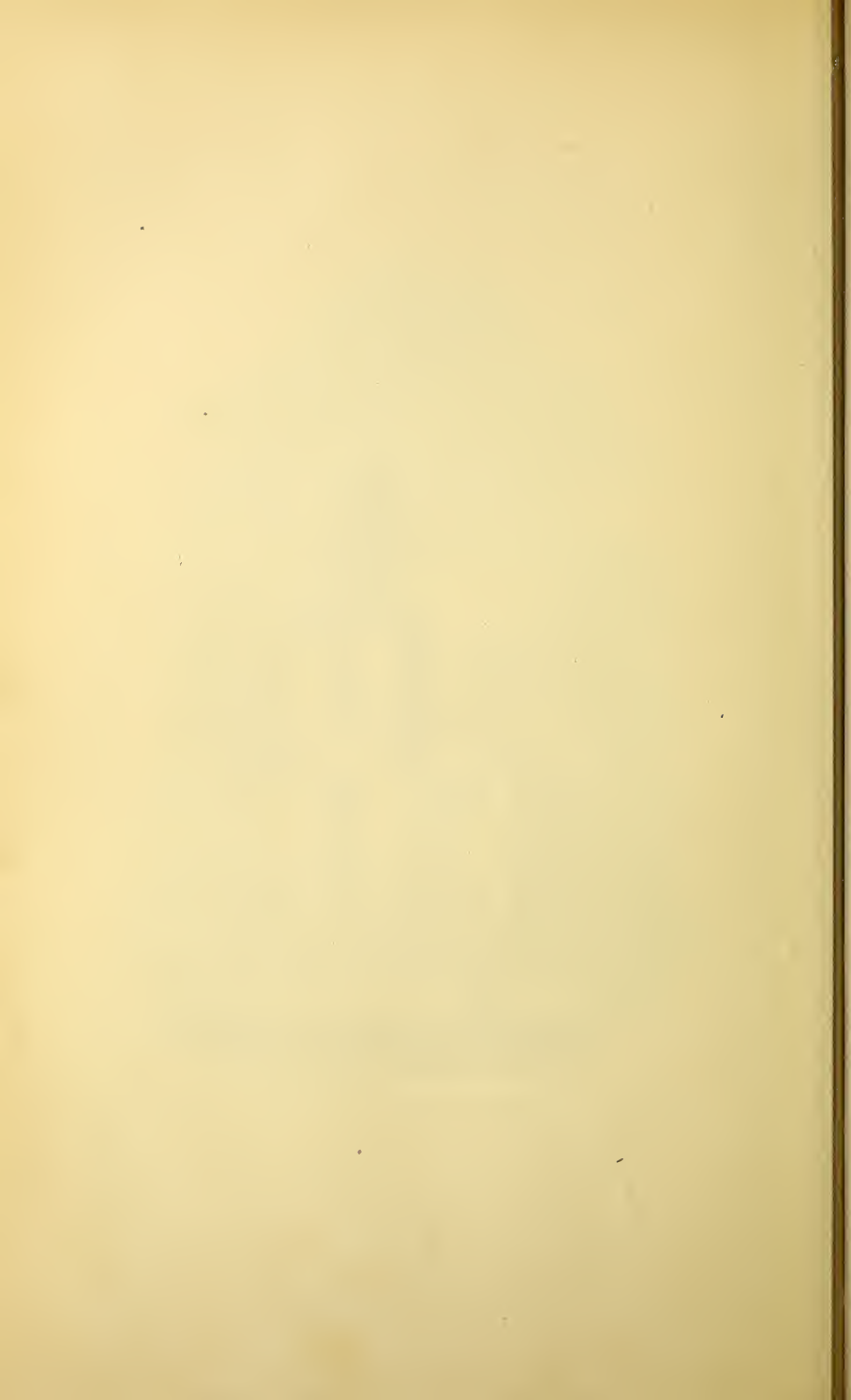
#### THE CHURCH BUILT A. D. 1800.

The story of the building of the new meeting-house has been told with all needful fullness of detail by Rev. Dr. Gale, and can be only briefly summed up in this historical review.

The question of building a new church edifice came up as early as 1796; but year after year, found it difficult for the people to agree how this should be done. One method, adopted in 1799, was to "class the pews," dividing them into five classes, of different values, \$25 to \$75, each subscriber agreeing to pay for a pew of a certain class. But the amount raised, \$3,475, was not what had been desired. Then it was voted to vendue the pews. 56 individuals bought 58 pews. No pew brought less than \$50. Ebenezer West gave \$99.50 for one pew. Josiah Yale bid off four for \$268.50. A building committee was chosen, Josiah Yale, Joseph Whiton, Seth Backus, Nathan Dillingham, Nathan Bassett. The committee were to assign each man's lot of material for the purpose of building. In May, 1800, the plan of venduing the pews, was abandoned, the town voting to build by subscription if \$4,000 can be raised. The raising took place, July 4th, 1800. It was a day of great interest. Under an awning, the ladies furnished breakfast for 100 men. Cannon were fired, the drum and fife were played. There was no religious service, at the laying of the corner stone, but Dr. Hyde offered prayer at the raising, and came down every morning to conduct family worship at Mr. Foote's for the men who were at work. At the raising, a stick of timber eight inches square, stood eight or



SECOND CHURCH.—BUILT IN 1800.





ten feet above the frame. Many tried to climb to the top but could not succeed. Rowland Thatcher went up, stood on the scanty space, and after swinging a junk bottle, gave it a toss, which threw it unbroken, into the meadow now De Witt Smith's garden. There was a rush for it; it was picked up, and long treasured as a sacred relic. It was carried to Genoa, N. Y., by Cornelius Fessenden. It was used for many years as an ink bottle. At length one very cold night, the ink froze, and the bottle was broken. John Hulett was the master carpenter, or architect and builder, as we should say. He built the meeting-houses in Richmond and in Lenox. The Lee meeting-house was like that in Richmond, except that it was one foot shorter. Richmond, at this time, was considered an aristocratic place, compared with Lee, where people lived and dressed more plainly. Capt. Alvan Foote, one of the hundred, who helped at the raising, remembers that Mr. Hulett always asked a blessing at the table. The house was to be built by the people "among themselves," and the work of finishing it went on slowly. The carpenters were dismissed in haying and harvest. Available funds were not abundant, and there was no agreement as to the best method of paying for it. The people furnished materials and labor, and the workmen were paid in country produce contributed, so little money was there in circulation. Skilled mechanics' wages were \$1, common laborers 67 cents per day. Butter was reckoned at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound, corn 50 cents a bushel. Among those who were engaged in the construction of the building, the committee's account book gives the names of John Hulett, wages \$82: Samuel Porter, \$258: Benoni and Henry Lewis received for painting, \$108: Abijah Merrill \$20 for hooks and hinges, and window-springs: Nathaniel Basset for blacksmithing and making scrapers, \$9: Samuel Couch \$20 for the vane,

spire, and letters: Squire Stone \$12 for turning the urns and ball: Nathan Bassett \$3 for "Sampson's mallet." Squire Yale was active and generous in his desire to secure for the worship of God a sanctuary that would be commodious, convenient, and creditable to the people. It is told to his honor, that when iron was needed for the bell, the common bog ore making brittle iron, he offered his iron bar, saying that he knew that to be good. The house was one of the first class. It was 64 by 50 feet. The porch or entrance hall took off 8 feet in front, leaving the audience room 56 feet by 50. Over the porch was the end gallery. The side galleries were of generous proportions, and each had five wall pews 11 feet long. The broad alley in the center was six feet wide. The 48 body pews were  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide: the four on either side of the pulpit were 7 feet long. The tower projected 8 feet in front: the three pews in this, back of the choir, were 9 feet long and 6 feet wide. The dedication took place, it is said, on Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, 1801. Dr. Hyde, preached from II Chron. 6: 18. All that the town, as a town, had paid for the new meeting-house, was £50, in May, 1800, for the land on which it stood. The question of ownership was not settled for several years, and occupied the attention of the people at every town meeting, jointly with the perpetual buying of plank for bridges. Difficulties in connection with seating the meeting-house, dignifying the seats, and assigning them to individuals, were perpetually arising. In 1802 a committee of ten was chosen to grade the ground and remove the stone. In 1805, when the question of ownership was brought up in town meeting, 42 voted that the house is in the hands of individuals, and 24 that it is in the hands of the town. The building committee's accounts were not settled for many years, and it is said that Squire Yale, and Major Nye, sold their cattle to satisfy a

demand of some \$300. The accounts were kept with scrupulous exactness. Interest was charged for subscriptions not paid, claims were sold and transferred, even as assets of estates. At last it was voted to vendue the pews, and the sale March 27, 1810, brought \$5,905. The highest price paid for one of the long pews, was \$140, the lowest \$31. The "show-boxes," as the pews each side of the pulpit were called, were at this time considered the most desirable. In the course of time they came to be considered the least valuable, for fashion rules in the high places of the church, as strongly as in the courts of kings.

The final report of the building committee was made March 3, 1817, and from that date church affairs ceased to have much prominence in the town records. In 1830, the parish was formed, and the town affairs as such, have since then been kept entirely distinct from the parish. In 1836 the parish notified the town that they were unwilling any longer to have the town meetings held in the audience room of the church. The town then agreed to fit up the basement, if the parish would allow the use of it for town meetings. This was agreed upon; the expense of fitting was \$500. It was used for town meetings till the building was destroyed by fire: but it never was pleasant, the room being low between joints, and one half of it below the surface of the ground. In 1833 with the view of affording a suitable building spot for a temperance hotel, then projected, a subscription of \$1,500 was raised and the meeting-house moved back from its original location about 200 feet to the North.

A committee of the parish was chosen in 1836 to obtain the consent of the proprietors to proposed alterations. Nothing was done until 1841, when a committee was appointed to report. During the next year sixteen parish meetings were held to determine the extent and pay the

cost of the alterations, \$2,400. The society had previously bought the house of the pew holders at \$3,102. When the repairs were finished, the pews were appraised for enough to cover both these sums. The choice money was \$628; the whole amount \$6,130. The remodeled house contained 110 pews on the lower floor, where previously there were only 66.

But the audience room would not accommodate all desirous of seats, and in 1848 an addition was made of 20 feet, in the rear, giving 44 pews, while at the same time the galleries, which had been lowered too much, were raised. These repairs cost \$2,300. To secure it, most of the pews had been relinquished at the price paid in 1841. At the sale Dec. 14 and Dec. 25, the choice money was \$2,233.50; the whole amount \$8,503.50. This not only paid all expenses, but left some hundreds of dollars in the treasury. The length of the church without the tower was 84 feet. The audience room was 68 feet long and 48 feet wide. It would seat 700 below, 300 above. The seats were comfortable and the church every way pleasant.

Until 1852 the choir was accompanied by a variety of musical instruments. In that year an organ, made by Mr. Johnson, of Westfield, was placed in the church.

The bell, bought in 1848, was the fifth that had been hung in the church. Its weight was 1,732 lbs.; cost \$519.60: makers Meneely and Sons, of West Troy. The four previous bells were disabled successively after longer and shorter services. The first bell, bought in New Haven, lasted 25 years, the second only two years: the third, of most musical tone, from 1828 to 1847, broken by the boys on the "Fourth." The fourth bell lasted less than a year. All were bought by subscription. The bell that perished with the church, gave the alarm of fire on the eventful morning of Jan. 23, 1857, about 1.30, and fell soon after striking 3 o'clock. Part of it



melted in the heat, and was found in the ashes in the form of shot. 570 lbs were recovered by washing the ashes after the fashion of the California gold hunters.

The fire which destroyed this building so hallowed by many sacred associations with past precious privileges, originated in Church and Sedgwick's block 100 yards north-west of the church. The night, Jan. 23, 1857, was intensely cold, and the water froze as it fell from the fire engine. A high wind carried up a blazing shingle and lodged it on the roof of the cupola above the bell. It was impossible with the means at hand to stop the progress of the flames. So thoroughly was the building burned that not a shingle or a square foot of timber could be found, which was not charred over, two or three cords in all: the rest was in ashes. Very little furniture was saved from the burning building, and at 5 a. m. "the holy and beautiful house where our Fathers praised," was a mass of smoking ruins.

Among the losses in the burning of this church was that of the town clock which had three years previously been placed upon its tower by the liberality of Mr. Joel Bradley. Shortly after the clock struck three, tolling its own age, the bell and clock fell from the tower.

A chapel, that stood by the church, was also a prey to the devouring flames. It was built by subscription in 1854, and given to the parish to be used solely for parish purposes. The building was 50 by 32; posts 16 feet high. The audience room was about 37 by 30: 12 feet off the north end being taken for business rooms. It was built at a cost of about \$2,000.

#### THE PARSONAGE.

The parsonage was saved only by the most strenuous exertions. It was built in 1851 at an expense of about \$3,000. Previous to this time the clergymen had lived

in their own hired houses, except Dr. Hyde, who being settled for life, bought a farm and built a house according to the custom of those times.

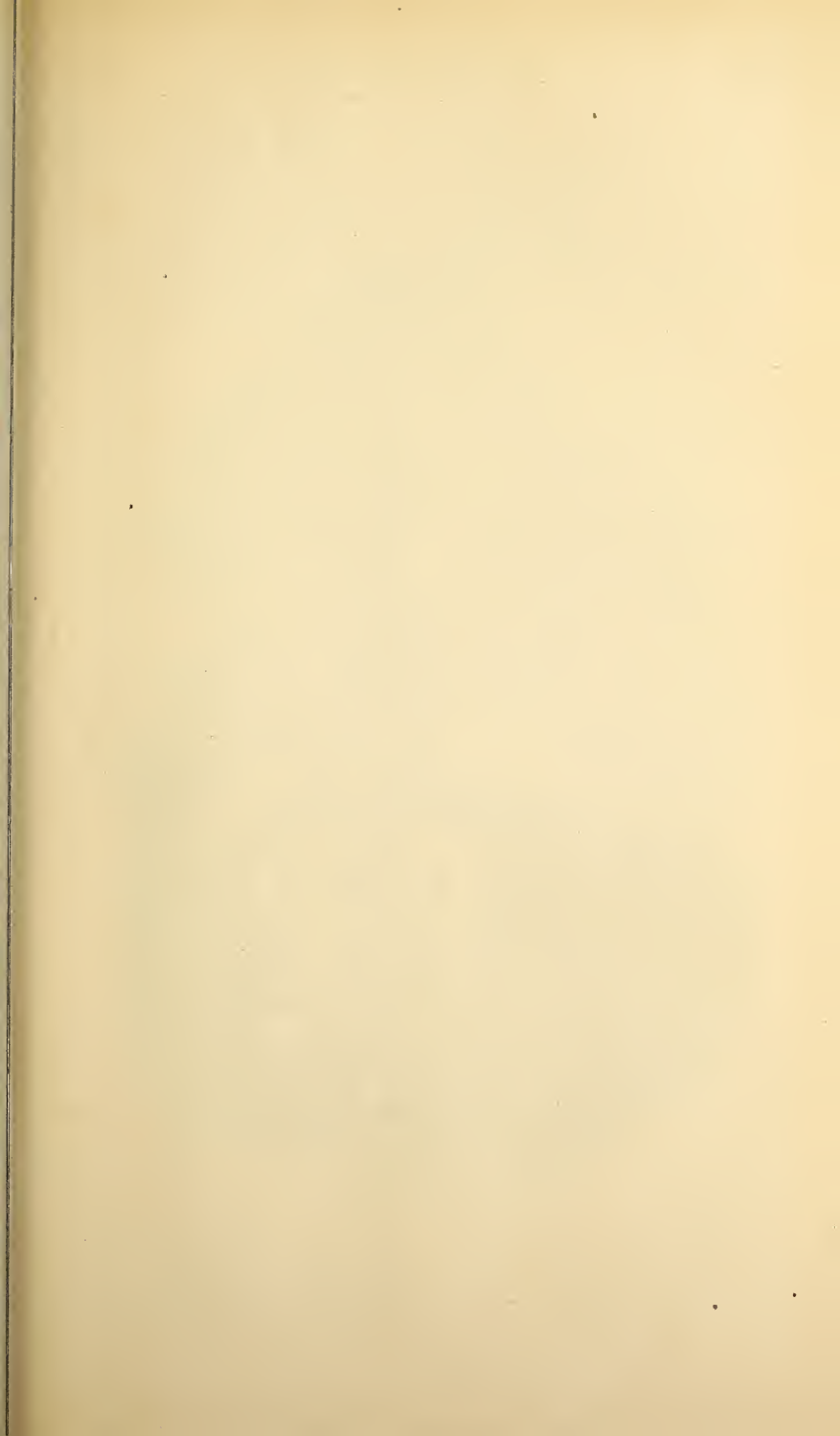
#### THE HORSE SHEDS.

Those useful, if not elegant, appendages to our New England meeting-houses, the horse sheds, must not be overlooked in this record of "the courts of the Lord's house." The first public mention of them is the vote of the town July, 1800, "to appoint a committee of three men, to attend to applications of persons, who may want land to erect sheds upon, or any other buildings." In 1813 the town bought more ground of Messrs. Foote and Bradley "for the purpose of shed ground and common." On the town records is a plot showing the location of 36 sheds. When the meeting-house was moved in 1833, changes were made in the "shed spots," and still others in 1848, when the meeting-house was enlarged. 17 new sheds were built, making about 40 in all. When the present church edifice was built these convenient and necessary appendages were re-arranged, and increased, so that few churches in the land were better supplied with "complementary means of grace," as horse sheds have been called.

#### THE PRESENT CHURCH AND CHAPEL.

The present spacious and stately church building was erected by the parish at a cost of about \$30,000.

The corner stone was laid 1857, July 21. Dr. Gale delivered then a historical address, giving in greater fullness of detail the facts embodied in the preceding sketch. The building was dedicated by an eloquent sermon by Dr. Gale, and by other religious services, September 1, 1858. The accompanying cut will give the reader a good idea of the exterior of the building. The main audience





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



room has a seating capacity for over a thousand. In the rear is a pleasant chapel of a semi-octagonal form with seating accommodations for two hundred. This church was built at a time of great financial depression, and too much credit cannot be given to the building committee for carrying the enterprise through so successfully.

#### SEXTONS AND SERVICES.

The town in its early history not only claimed to hold a title to the church building, and to be under obligation to pay the minister's salary, but made it its business to look after the cleanliness of the building. Every year the duty of opening the doors, sweeping the floor, and ringing the bell, offered at vendue to the lowest bidder, was a part of the transactions of the town meeting. This was at first a matter of special appointment as when 1785, March 28, Hope Davis was duly elected "to take care of sweeping, and shut the doors and windows of the meeting-house, and to be allowed what it shall be worth at the year's end." 1789, March 1, Nathaniel Bassett was chosen and allowed 18 shillings. 1812, it was voted that the bell should be rung at 9 P. M. six months when the nights were longest; the other six months at noon. Nathaniel Bassett will be remembered by the older people as for nearly two score years the sexton who for sixteen dollars a year took care of the meeting-house and rang noon and night the bell that marked for the community the great divisions of each day. A special committee was chosen 1812, May 4, to collect fines, 50 cents each, for any window pane that might be broken. 1814, April 11, the town voted that the meeting-house floor should be sanded after its washing in May.

The hours of religious service also came under the purview of the town meeting.

The town voted to reject a proposition made that there

should be but one preaching service through the Winter. 1807, April 6, a committee was appointed to wait on Dr. Hyde and see if will be agreeable to him to have the intermission one hour through the ensuing year.

A still more striking instance of the town's interference in what is now considered the special province of every religious church or society, is the vote 1790, Sept. 23, appointing a committee "to treat with regard to making some alterations in the church's covenant."

#### PARISH EXPENSES.

The assumption of such a variety of cares by the town, is in striking contrast to the limitations now fixed by statute to the interests which properly and legally may come within the scope of town action. In the report of a committee, adopted 1788, Jan. 3, in regard to the abatement of taxes which the constables for various years had not been able to collect, it is bewildering to note the variety of objects for which specific taxes had been laid. There was the minister's tax, distinct from the town and from the county tax. Besides these were the State tax No. 5, and the Continental tax, No. 2. Work on the meeting-house, and glazing the meeting-house were to be paid for by taxes specially levied for the purpose. As late as 1822, March 4, the town meeting listened to a report of a committee, specifying minutely what repairs it was needful to make, and what would be the probable cost. It was not until 1830 that the Siamese-twin connection of church and town were severed, and the parish freed from the abnormal and worrisome dependence upon the supervision of the town.

The main argument relied upon in assessing and collecting the minister's tax was that the church was open to all. They could have a seat if they chose. Rev. Dr.

Marsh (father of Dr. Marsh the secretary of the Am. Temperance Society), used this argument with a barber who was duly assessed though he never put his foot within the church doors. Dr. Marsh, by the way, never patronized this barber, but sent his wig to Hartford to be dressed. Soon after the constable had made his annual rounds, the minister was surprised by receiving a bill from the barber for dressing his wig. "How's this?" he exclaimed. "I've never had any wig dressed by you." "But you might have had it done," was the reply. The Doctor saw the point, and paid the bill, the exact amount of the barber's minister tax.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL PARISH.

In 1830 the parish system for the management of the secular affairs of the church was adopted. The parish consisted not only of the members of the church but of all others who were willing to unite with it and share the responsibility for the support of the gospel. Heretofore the law required every man to be taxed for the benefit of some ecclesiastical society, giving him the choice to which his assessment should be paid. Henceforth all religious societies were voluntary organizations, not even church members being required by law to contribute toward their support. This was a great revolution and many old and wise heads thought it would result in the ruin of the country. In this town the plan of supporting the gospel by a tax on the property of the parish, was adopted and continued in operation long after almost every town in the state had given it up. Indeed the Congregational parish still raises its funds mostly by taxation, property and pews being taxed for about an equal amount.

## THE CHURCH AT SOUTH LEE.

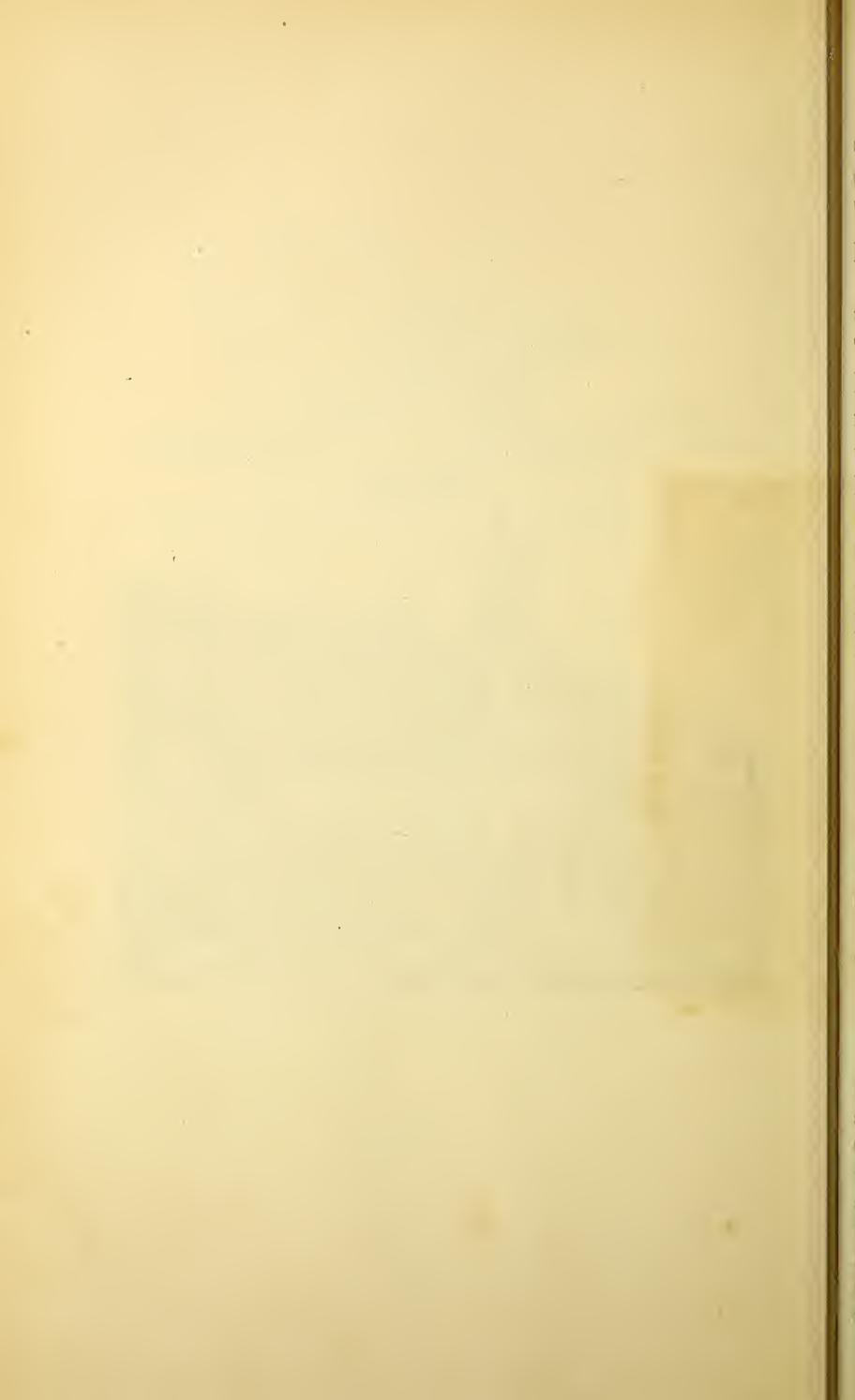
“In 1805 Rev. Mr. Garrison began holding religious meetings in the school-house in the east end of the village of South Lee. One service was held on the Sabbath for several years. The preachers were itinerant, but most generally lived in town. Among the first was Rev. William Ross, a native of Lee. A complete list of the various preachers cannot be given. Among them are remembered with affectionate respect Rev. Messrs. Woolsey, Cook, Rice, Hibbard, Jacobs, Clark, Smith, Bangs.

In 1827 a Baptist church was organized at Tyringham in connection with the labors of Elder Ira Hall. About the same time he extended his labors to South Lee, preaching in the adjacent school-house No. 2, in the Hopland district. The religious interest awakened led to an effort to build in South Lee a meeting-house suitable for religious purposes. As no denomination felt strong enough to undertake the work alone, it was wisely determined to combine the different religious interests in the erection of a house to be used by each under such regulations as might be agreed upon. The first meeting with this object in view was held at the school-house in South Lee, May 14, 1827. A half acre of land having been purchased from Gen. Joseph Whiting, a constitution was drawn up, subscriptions collected, and the building begun. The dedication took place August 21, 1828. The constitution provided for the occupancy of the house in these terms: “The First Baptist Society in said town [known as the Tyringham and Lee Baptist Church] and the Methodist Episcopal Society shall have the occupancy of said house on the Sabbath when they have appointments for that purpose; but when the two societies have no appointments, the house shall be opened at all times to the Congregationalists and other religious societies.” For the purpose of vesting the control of the house in a





METHODIST CHURCH.—FERN CLIFF IN THE REAR.



definite body, it was further provided that all subscribers to the building fund to the amount of five dollars should be entitled to one vote and one sitting, and in the same proportion for all additional sums.

For a considerable number of years, worship was sustained by Baptists and Methodists on alternate Sabbaths. The Baptist ministers who succeeded Ira Hall were Alex. Bush, Geo. Phippen, and Forris Moore. The Methodist ministers in whose circuit South Lee was included were too numerous to mention. Subsequently Rev. Mr. Bradley, a Congregationalist, was settled here a few years.

After this field had been in a large measure abandoned by the three denominations interested in the erection of the house, the Episcopalians established worship, and have maintained it with little interruption to the present time.

In 1862 the house was repaired at an expense of nearly \$450.00. Through the liberality of the Episcopal church in Stockbridge, a very serviceable pipe organ was placed in the church in 1867. Three years later the house was again put in thorough repair, many alterations made and a belfry and a bell added to its exterior, involving altogether an expense of over \$1,300.00.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SOCIETY OF LEE.

BY REV. A. OSTRANDER.

PREVIOUS to 1831 the Methodists in Lee held occasional meetings in various district school-houses. In that year, Revs. David Holmes and Thomas Sparks established regular services, and Lee became a Conference Missionary station, remaining such until 1838. Meetings were still held in school-houses, especially those in Water street and at the Center, until 1839. In January of that year, Frederick Van Tassel, Cyrus Shaw, Ackley Fuller, Reynolds White, John Sturges, Asa Stebbins, Amos Barnes and Amos Maxfield made a petition to Hubbard Bartlett, Esq., Justice of the Peace, to issue a warrant in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to call a meeting of

the Methodist Episcopal Society of Lee. The meeting was held according to warrant, in the Center school-house, January 16, 1839. Organization was effected by the election of Lorenzo D. Brown as Chairman, and W. H. Hill (now of Lenox), Clerk. The first Trustees were Amos Barnes, Thomas Hulett, Asa Stebbins, M. D. Field and John Sturges. At this meeting, a committee was appointed to raise money by subscription for the erection of a church edifice, and a Building Committee was appointed, consisting of M. D. Field, Albert M. Howk, L. D. Brown, John Sturges and Wm. H. Hill. Funds were secured, and a building 40×55 feet was erected, costing \$2,381.81. It was dedicated January 25, 1840, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Jacob C. Shaw of Tyringham. In 1846, the land on which the church and parsonage are built was quit-claimed to the Trustees by the American Bible Society, for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1849 the building was enlarged by the addition of twenty feet to its eastern end. During the pastorate of Rev. L. W. Walsworth, 1864-67, the front of the church was re-modeled and improved, and the steeple erected. During the same period the indebtedness of the society was paid.

The parsonage was built in 1852 under the administration of Rev. Z. N. Lewis.

In the Fall of 1876, the gallery of the church which had long been unused, was so re-constructed and enlarged as to form a commodious chapel, thus supplying a long-needed want.

At the present time, the Society enjoys the possession of a substantial church and parsonage property valued at \$20,000, entirely free from debt or incumbrance of any kind. From 1831 to 1843 Lee formed part of a circuit, sharing the services of the appointed preachers with Lenox and other points. Since 1843 Lee has been a separate station, receiving its pastors by appointment of the New York Annual Conference, each year, without interruption. The following is believed to be a correct list of the pastors from 1831 to 1878:

1831. Holmes and Sparks.	1844-46. John A. Silleck.
1832. Julius Field.	1846-48. J. N. Shaffer.
1833. T. Sparks.	1848-50. Pelatiah Ward.
1834-35. J. B. Wakeley.	1850-51. J. Z. Nichols.
1836. Denton Keeler.	1851-53. Z. N. Lewis.
1837. Keeler and Warner.	1853-54. Luther W. Peck.
1838. M. Van Deusen and A. Nash.	1854-56. Wm. Ostrander.
1839. M. Van Deusen and Shaw.	1856-58. Marvin R. Lent.
1840-42. Wm. Gothard.	1858-60. Z. N. Lewis.
1842-44. Chas. C. Keys.	1860-61. H. C. Humphrey.



1861-62. Alexander McLean.	1871-73, Clark Wright.
1862-64. Thos. E. Fero.	1873-75. Winslow W. Sever.
1864-67. L. W. Walsworth.	1875-76. H. B. Mead.
1867-69. Wm. Hall.	1876-78. A. Ostrander.
1869-71. Wm. Stevens.	

By this record, it appears that this Church has had thirty pastors during forty-seven years. Generally they have been men of zeal, full of love for their Master, and untiring in their efforts to win souls to Christ and to build up the Church. Under their ministry the Church has enjoyed frequent revival seasons, one of the most noteworthy being that during the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Keys, of whom his biographer says:

“His term of service in Lee, Mass., was crowned with remarkable displays of grace. In midsummer his church was thronged by anxious listeners to his word, while the crowd outside, unable to find entrance, often extended to the street.”

Rev. J. B. Wakeley became one of the most prominent and popular men in the Church, both in pulpit service and literature.

Rev. Pelatiah Ward entered the army as a captain during the Rebellion, and fell while gallantly leading his men at the battle of Manassas in 1862.

Rev. J. Z. Nichols was removed at the end of his first year to be made Presiding Elder of Rhinebeck District.

Rev. Z. N. Lewis is the only pastor who has served the Church a second term, having been recalled by petition in 1858.

Of the pastors previous to 1840, only three—Messrs. D. Keeler, M. Van Deusen and A. Nash—are known to be living; while of the twenty-one since that date all are living except Messrs. Keys, Silleck, Ward, Fero and Hall.

Prominent among the early members of the Church were Wm. L. Culver, Jesse Cheney, Hosea Allen, Jr., James Reed, Robt. Thomson, Kenaz Clark and David Baker. Of these the last alone remains, and is now the oldest male member of the Church.

Among the trustees, the names of Albert M. Howk and Caleb Benton are prominent as life-long and staunch supporters of the Church.

The present number of communicants in the Church is 211.

The following is the list of the Official Board of the Church for the present Conference year (1877):

*Pastor.*—Rev. A. Ostrander.

*Stewards.*—H. M. Bradley, A. C. Sparks, Daniel Pultz, H. Harding, E. H. Saunders, Wm. H. Hill, Theo. D. Holmes, H. Couch, J. Campbell.

*Leaders.*—H. M. Bradley, W. H. Hill, Theo. D. Holmes, Mrs. O. E. Crowl.

*District Steward.*—A. C. Sparks.

*Recording Steward.*—E. H. Saunders.

The Officers of the Society are :

*Trustees.*—J. F. Benton, Daniel Pultz, E. L. Melius, Chas. A. Childs, L. F. Hurd.

*Treasurer.*—A. C. Sparks.

*Collector.*—Daniel Pultz.

The last named officer died on the 8th of August, 1877. His love for the Church and his untiring efforts for its welfare place him in the foremost rank of its friends and supporters.

We are indebted for most of the material of this sketch to E. H. Saunders, Esq., the present Clerk of the Society ; for thirty years a member, and nearly as long an officer of the Church. We close with his devout words :

“For what God hath prospered us,  
To *Him* shall be all the praise. Amen !”

#### THE AFRICAN CHURCH.

In 1844 Albert Marie came into town and visited the colored people. He preached to them in school-houses and private dwellings and organized a church. Previous to this time the few colored people in the town had worshiped in the other churches and some of them were exemplary professors of religion. In 1852 a church edifice was erected by the colored people, aided by benevolent individuals in the other congregations. This organization is styled, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and has had many preachers and many exhorters but no records can be found of its early history. The present pastor, or rather preacher, is Rev. L. H. Cloyd, a faithful man, who is sustained in part by the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society. The whole number of colored persons in town is less than one hundred. The number of communicants with the African church is twenty-four.





BAPTIST CHURCH.



## THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN LEE.

BY REV. P. A. NORDELL.

As the population of the town of Lee increased, Baptist families moved in. Those living in the southern part of the town found church privileges in the Tyringham church or in the branch at South Lee. Those living in the central and northern parts of the town attended worship in the Congregational or Methodist churches.

In the Spring of 1850 the Rev. Amory Gale visited Lee for the purpose of ascertaining whether the number of Baptists in town was sufficiently great to warrant the organization of a church. The first meeting was held July 2, and it was resolved to establish Baptist preaching at once. Further action was delayed until a sufficient number had obtained letters of dismission from their respective churches. On the 14th of Sept. 1850 the church was organized with twenty constituent members, Articles of Faith were adopted, Mr. M. E. Culver chosen deacon, a prudential committee appointed, candidates for baptism received, and a unanimous call extended to Rev. A. Gale to become the pastor. A council summoned to recognize the new church met Oct. 8th. The sermon was preached by Rev. Bradley Miner of Pittsfield. The recognition service, through the courtesy of the Congregational brethren, was held in their church.

The following Summer a lot suitable for the erection of a house of worship was secured and building was begun. By the Fall of 1852 the work had progressed sufficiently to permit the dedication of the house. The basement remained unfinished for a considerable time.

Sometime after the organization of the church, Mr. Eli Taintor was elected to the office of deacon. July 29th. 1852 the number of deacons was increased to three by the election of Mr. Hosea Coddington.

The first two years were marked by a rapid growth. A strict discipline, without which no church can prosper, was vigilantly maintained. Notwithstanding losses by death and exclusion, the church reported a membership of 101 at the meeting of the Berkshire Baptist Association, Sept. 30th. 1852. During the next few years the growth though not so marked was encouraging.

The general prosperity of the town and its promise of rapid increase in population, tempted the young church to the building of a larger and more expensive house of worship than the needs of the congregation demanded either at that time, or subsequently. The immediate consequence was a large debt, which might soon have been extinguished if the prosperous times had continued. Even during the few years of business activity which continued after the organization of

the church, much difficulty and discouragement were experienced from the floating character of the population out of which the church had been built up. This proved to be a serious obstacle in the way of removing the debt, which with unpaid interest amounted in Nov. 1855 to \$4,528.38. In addition to this, there was an annual deficit of nearly three hundred dollars. A committee appointed by the association to examine the condition and prospects of the church, unanimously advised the other churches of the association to render aid, if possible, to the extent of \$2,500, toward the extinguishment of this debt, provided the remainder be raised by the church. No further action seems to have been taken in the matter; the burden remained a source of anxiety, and a grave hinderance to the temporal and spiritual advancement of the church.

In the Summer of 1856, the newly organized Episcopal society secured the use of the house for divine service at such times as would not interfere with the worship of the Baptist congregation. This arrangement was continued a number of months.

The following January, a disastrous fire occurred in the village which consumed with other buildings the Congregational meeting-house. The use of the Baptist house was immediately tendered to the Congregational church, until such time as they might be able to erect another house. The offer was accepted and the two congregations worshipped together till April 25th, 1859. As the only church-bell in town was destroyed at the burning of the Congregational church the want of one was felt immediately. A new bell weighing 1,329 lbs. on the key of F sharp, was therefore purchased by public subscription and placed in the steeple of the Baptist church, where it still remains.

Rev. Amory Gale who had been the beloved pastor of the church nearly seven years, being called to labor in the West with the prospect of greatly enlarged usefulness, resigned his charge of the church to take effect the first of June, 1857. By his Christian zeal and large-minded interest in whatever pertained to the welfare of the public he greatly endeared himself not only to the church for which he had labored, but to the community in which he had lived. After eighteen years of faithful labor in the West, he was obliged to give up active work through failing health. In quest of health he was induced to go abroad, but died in Syria in November 1874. There he will rest in soil made sacred by the tread of the Divine Master to whose service he so patiently and joyfully gave the strength of his life.

The Church was suffering at this time, not only from the burden of its distressing debt, but from the loss of many of its best members,

compelled to remove from Lee by the utter prostration of business. Only 93 members were reported to the Association in 1857. Nevertheless, it was deemed best to secure a pastor as soon as possible, and on the tenth of August, a unanimous call was given to Rev. Ralph H. Bowles of Brandford, Conn. Under his ministry the Church prospered greatly in respect to accessions to its membership, 130 being reported in 1859. But there was no relief from financial distress. After numerous ineffectual appeals to the Association for aid, it became apparent that the property must be surrendered to pay the debt. Mr. Bowles resigned his charge of the Church August 18, 1861, and September 28th, the Church voted to assign its property to its creditors. They were not exacting, however, and, in hope that a way out of the difficulty might be devised, the sale was deferred about two years. In February, 1862, Rev. Charles W. Potter began preaching as a supply, but was engaged as pastor the following September. This engagement was brief, for he resigned June 5, 1863.

The 15th of May, 1863, was truly a dark day in the history of this struggling Church. The evils which had so long threatened, and which the Church had striven so persistently to ward off, culminated in the alienation of its property at public sale. It was appraised at \$7,000.00, and sold to Mr. S. V. R. Daniels of Pittsfield, for \$2,325.00. Unexpectedly the Lord opened a light in the darkness, for Mr. Daniels very generously offered to let the Church occupy the house so long as it might remain in his hands. In the course of a couple of weeks, measures were taken for re-opening the house. For a number of months, preaching was furnished by temporary supplies, but October 4th, a very hearty invitation was extended to Rev. Asa Bronson of Fall River, to become its pastor, which call he accepted.

On the first of November, a meeting was held to consider the expediency of disbanding the church organization. The reasons given were, that the membership of the Church had become very much scattered, and the present residence of a large number of the members was unknown; and that the Church had heretofore labored under many embarrassments which had brought it into more or less disfavor, all of which rendered it desirable that the old organization should be disbanded. This was accordingly done, and letters of dismission were issued to all members in good standing.

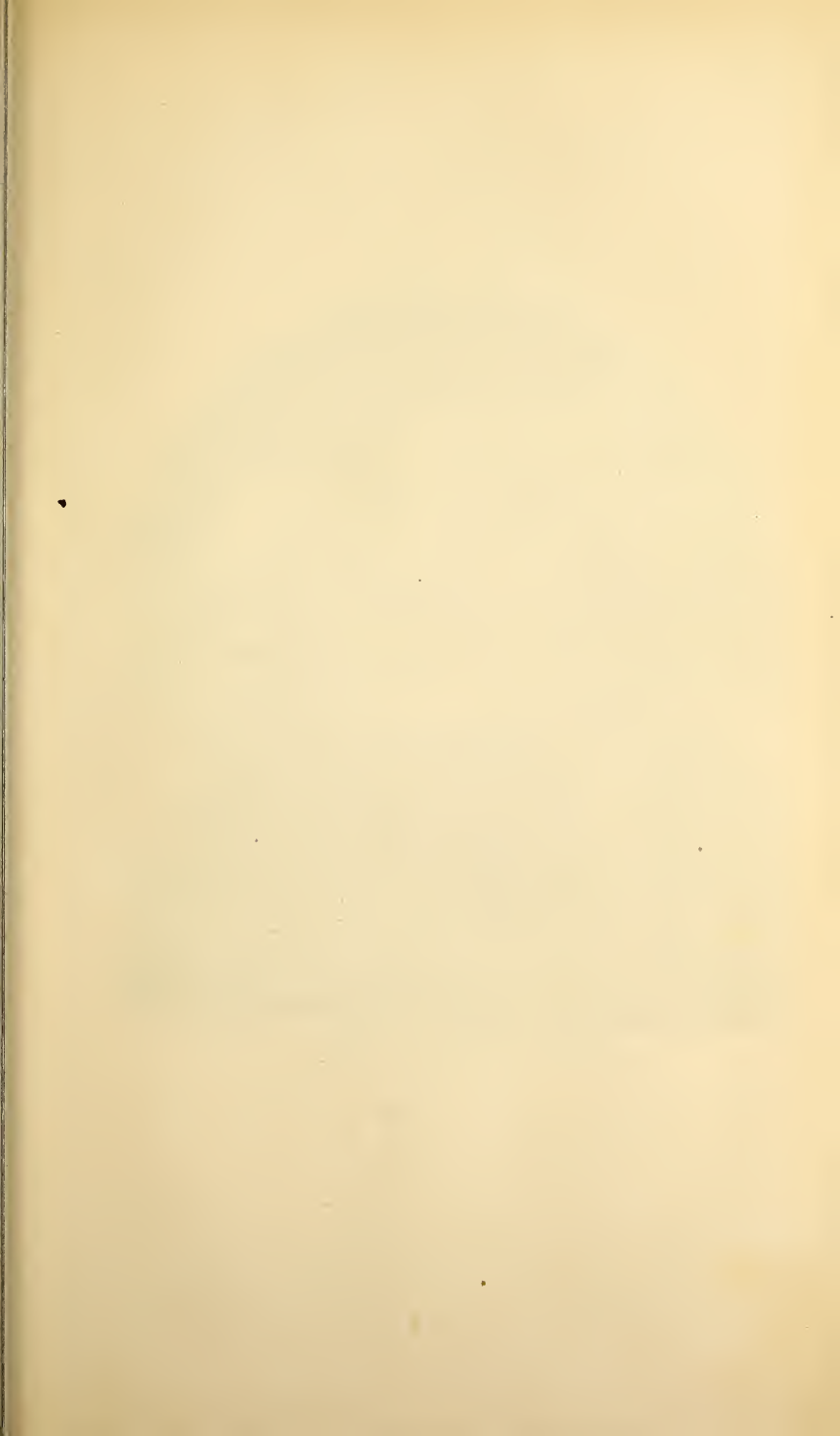
At the same meeting, and by subsequent effort, thirty-four names were secured of those desiring to organize a new Baptist interest in Lee. This was done November 22d, 1863, and the new organization received the name of "The Bethel Baptist Church and Society in Lee." From this, it appears that it was deemed expedient to combine

with the church organization proper, a society, a relic of the former unholy alliance between Church and State, from which nearly all Baptist Churches in the Commonwealth had disencumbered themselves. Rev. Asa Bronson became its pastor, Brother J. A. Royce, clerk, and Brethren Hosea Coddington and Wm. A. Brown, deacons. The growth was encouraging. Nevertheless, Mr. Bronson tendered his resignation September 4th, which was accepted, and Rev. H. A. Morgan of Becket, elected his successor. In 1865, the possession of the house was transferred from Brother S. V. R. Daniels to the Berkshire Baptist Association, and its use offered to the Church on very easy conditions. A number of needed repairs were made by the Church, and a new carpet purchased, involving an expense of \$1,726. During the pastorate of Mr. Morgan, the Church enjoyed a steady, quiet growth, and many improvements were made. He offered his resignation and preached his farewell sermon, November 29, 1868.

During the next four months, preaching was maintained by irregular supplies. A call was then extended to Rev. Ralph H. Bowles, their former pastor, and he began his labors April 4, 1869. This pastorate was brief, Mr. Bowles resigning his charge of the Church, March 20, 1870.

Two months after this, Rev. Joseph H. Seaver of Salem, became pastor of the Church. He remained only a year, and was succeeded by Rev. Stephen Pillsbury of Newton, who entered upon his work June 1, 1871. The Church reported this year a membership of 68. His labors extended over a period of three years, and promoted the spiritual and temporal interests of the Church. Some old debts were paid, furnaces introduced, and other improvements made. During the Winter of 1873-4, a gracious revival was experienced, from which much fruit was reaped by the Church. He closed his labors in Lee March 29, 1874, and was followed, May 3d, by Rev. P. A. Nordell of Rochester, N. Y. During his pastorate, repairs and improvements were made on the house. A new and substantial carpet was purchased, a large chandelier and other lamps procured; the roof was reshingled, and the dingy appearance of the interior relieved by frescoing the ceiling and walls; all the pulpit appointments were remodeled. Efforts were made to place the Church upon a firm financial basis, which would have been easily accomplished but for the protracted financial distress which followed the panic of 1874. A number were added by baptism and letter. The present membership is 112. It is to be hoped that this Church, which has so long and so patiently struggled against adversity and discouragement, will witness, at no







ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH. (EPISCOPAL.)

distant day, abundant temporal and spiritual prosperity. After a pastorate of nearly three years and a half, Mr. Nordell terminated his labors with the Church, September 1, 1877.

## HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, LEE, MASS.

BY REV. W. R. HARRIS.

Occasional services of the Episcopal Church were held in Lee, by clergymen from Lenox and Stockbridge, previous to the year 1855. No attempt, however, was made to organize a parish until about that time. On the 17th of May, 1856, an application was made to the Hon. Lester Filley, Justice of the Peace, by several residents of the Town, requesting him to issue a warrant, calling a meeting of themselves, with others, for the purpose of organizing a parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and to appoint a time and place of meeting.

The warrant was issued on May 27th, and 4 o'clock P. M. of the 4th day of June next ensuing was appointed as the time, and the Police Court Room the place for said meeting.

Pursuant to the above call, the friends of the movement assembled at the time and place appointed, when the Hon. Lester Filley was chosen chairman and Edward Foote clerk of the meeting.

The permanent officers elected were :

Wardens, Lester Filley and William T. Fish ; Vestrymen, James A. Weed, Amos Fish, John Evans, Benjamin F. Bosworth, and W. L. Davies.

Early in June of the same year, the Rev. George T. Chapman, D. D., an elderly but distinguished presbyter of the Church, assumed the charge of the Parish as its first Rector, a position in which he labored faithfully and successfully for three years. Immediate steps were taken toward the erection of a church edifice. In September, a lot of ground situated on Franklin street was purchased of Benjamin F. Dean for the sum of \$625.00. Mr. Elizur Smith also conveyed to the Parish for "good will," a narrow strip adjoining the lot which was necessary to afford access to it. The work of building began in 1857, and a neat and churchly frame edifice was completed early in the following year at a cost of about \$7,500.00. The first service was held in it on January 31, 1858, Dr. Chapman preaching an appropriate discourse.

At Easter, 1859, Dr. Chapman, owing to advanced age and increasing infirmities, resigned the charge of the Parish. He removed to Newburyport, where he resided, honored and esteemed by all who knew him, until his decease, which took place in 1872. He was

succeeded in the Rectorship by the Rev. John F. Spaulding, now (1877) Bishop of Colorado. His pastorate, however, continued only for fifteen months. During this time the attendance on the services increased, and the Parish prospered. After Mr. Spaulding's resignation, which took effect October, 1860, there appear to have been several clergymen in charge of the Parish, in frequent succession, either as rectors or temporary supplies. On Christmas eve, 1861, the church with all it contained was destroyed by fire. This was a severe loss, as after all liabilities had been met there was but a small balance remaining to the Parish. For a time nothing was done toward rebuilding and no services were held. After some delay, however, it was decided to erect a new edifice, to be built of stone. Mr. Charles Heebner, the owner of the marble quarries, furnished the material and contributed largely toward the work. The progress of rebuilding was slow, the new church was not completed until April 1865, nor wholly furnished with bell, chairs, lamps, etc., until four or five years later. After all was done, considerable encumbrance remained upon the property, which was not entirely removed until 1873. In Lent of this year an effort was made which proved successful, to raise sufficient funds to liquidate the whole indebtedness of the Parish. The mortgage was canceled in September, and on the 7th of October the Rt. Rev. Benjamin F. Paddock, D. D., the Bishop of the Diocese, consecrated the church under the name and title of St. George's Church, to "the service of Almighty God, the Blessed and Undivided Trinity, according to the provisions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in its Ministry, Doctrine, Liturgy, Rites, and Usages."

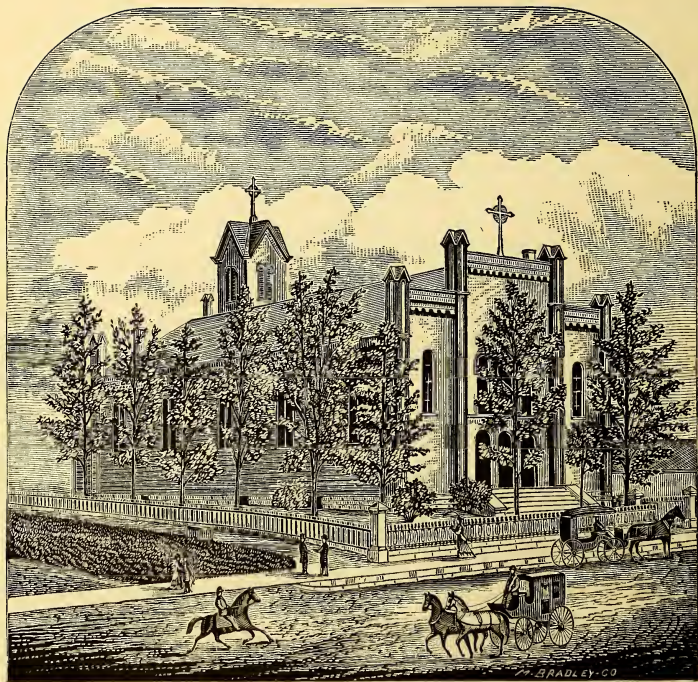
In June, 1875, a very nice organ of eight stops was presented to the church by the Rev. William Gill, a former parishioner. The Rectors during this period were:

The Rev. Gustavus Murray,	.	.	.	1864 to 1866.
The Rev. E. R. Bishop,	.	.	.	1866.
The Rev. W. C. Winslow,	.	.	.	1867 to 1870.
The Rev. W. R. Harris,	.	.	.	1871 (present incumbent.)

This is the history of the outward and the visible. The history of the inward and the spiritual, which is the true history of a church, can not be written. The story of children new born to God, of godly lives begun, of faith increased, of souls strengthened and refreshed and purified by prayer, by sacraments, by the reading and preaching of God's Word—this, the most precious part of the church's life, running through a long period of years, the Last Day only can reveal.







ST. MARY'S CHURCH. (CATHOLIC.)

The statistics of the Parish, taken from the last annual report to the Convention, for the year 1876-77, are:

Baptisms, . . . . .	3
Confirmed, . . . . .	5
Communicants, . . . . .	56
Families, . . . . .	54
S. S. Officers and Scholars, . . . . .	(about) 40

#### HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH (CATHOLIC).

The first settlements in Lee were made almost exclusively by Protestants, generally Congregationalists. During the first half century after its incorporation, as we have seen, the history of the Congregational church was almost identical with the history of the town. At the time of Dr. Hyde's death (1833) the Congregational was the only church organization in the center of the town. There was scarcely a Catholic resident here, and the number was small till the building of the Housatonic railroad in 1849. The construction of this road brought in large numbers of Irishmen, mostly Catholics, many of whom remained and sought occupation in the mills and on the farms. To minister to this population, Rev. P. Cuddihy came down from Pittsfield occasionally, and under his direction St. Mary's Church was built in 1856. Rev. Peter Eagan was assigned to the pastorate of this church in October, 1857, and continued in charge till his death, which occurred in 1864. During his ministry, the Catholic population of the town increased rapidly, and the attendance at his church was larger than at any other, many coming from the neighboring towns.

Rev. George H. Brennan succeeded Mr. Eagan, and is the present pastor. Under his ministry the attendance at St. Mary's has steadily increased, except for a short period in 1869-70, when, owing to the stoppage of work in the quarries and some other changes in business, many Catholics left town. The present attendance is larger

than ever before, being about 2,000. The Sunday-school is also flourishing, numbering some 500 children. Mr. Brennan found the church deeply in debt, but during his pastorate this has been paid and mission churches have been established in Stockbridge and West Stockbridge.

It is noticeable that the number of marriages and baptisms in the congregation worshipping at St. Mary's is far greater than in any other, and probably larger than in all the others. This speaks well for the industry and purity of our Catholic population. The number of marriages solemnized at St. Mary's in the 20 years since it was opened for religious services, is 469, and the number of baptisms in the same time is 2,471.

St. Mary's is the largest church edifice in town, and the attendance there is probably larger than at all the other churches. The work of the pastor is so arduous that for some years he has had an assistant.

### EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

THE first public school was established in Lee, April, 1784. The town then voted "to raise £40 the present year to be laid out in schooling, and to choose a committee to divide the town into districts for schooling." This committee consisted of Joshua Wells, Amos Mansfield, Deacon Jesse Bradley, Deacon Oliver West, Simon Call, Lemuel Crocker, Elisha Crocker. The rate was fixed at 38s. on the £100. "Voted to accept report of committee on school districts, and that every district draw money to pay for the schooling according to the ratable estates." It would seem that four districts were at first established, though the town chose five men as agents—Capt. Thomas Crocker, Capt. David Porter, Lieutenant Church, Esquire Jenkins and Ozias Strong. 1785, May 9, £40 raised, but the plan of dividing the town into districts with the money



divided also, was rejected. 1786, the town refused to raise any money for schools. 1791, £40 were to be distributed according to number of children between 4 and 14 years of age. The Committee to take the number: 1792, £40 to be divided according to amount of taxes in each district. 1793, £20 additional. 1794, £40 voted, to be divided according to the number of scholars. The agents this year were John Nye, north-east district; Aaron Benedict, south-east; Captain Dillingham, Center; Captain Garfield, south-west; Captain Gale, north-west.

The town was at first (1785) divided into four districts. The first embraced all included south of the roads running from the Park to Stockbridge and Tyringham, taking in the families of James Gardner, Reuben Pixley, 'Squire Ingersoll, Jeremy Warner and others, but excluding Mr. Ebenezer Swift. The second embraced all that were left upon the west side of the river except Ashbel Lee and James Penoyer. The third included all east of the river not included in the first as far east as Freeman's and Stanley's, and so on to the northern line. The fourth included all that were left in the eastern part of the town. The four districts were sub-divided till there were twelve in all.

By the State law of 1789, June 25, no master or mistress was allowed to keep school without a certificate from the Selectmen or School Committee, *and* the minister, if any there be, of the town. Dr. Hyde used to examine the teachers, and for many years gave them all the instruction they ever had in grammar. Not till 1814, March 7, do we find a committee appointed to inspect schools with Rev. Dr. Hyde. This first visiting committee consisted of Nathaniel Bassett, Dr. H. Bartlett, Hon. Joseph Whiton, Rollin C. Dewey, John Winegar. After this time such a committee was annually appointed.

The money appropriated has varied from time to time, according to the wishes and circumstances of the community. In 1795, £40 was the appropriation to be divided according to the valuation. This was exclusive of the Hopland district, which, in 1791, was incorporated so as to hold funds and manage schools in that section of the town separately: 1797, \$150; 1799, \$225; 1801, \$150; 1804, \$200; 1818, \$300.

These figures indicate the irregular and yet progressive rate of expenditure for this most important object. The method of distribution has been as variable as the amount of expenditure. At first, the appropriation was allotted to each district according to its valuation list; and afterwards, partly by valuation, partly by the number of scholars; then each school had the same fixed sum, and the remainder was allotted according to the size of the school.

The number of the districts has varied as the population has increased or changed. In 1801, October 19, Cape street was set off as a district. In 1806, a committee was appointed to divide the school district in the north part of the town.

The practical operation of this subdivision of the educational interests of the town was found to be disastrous rather than beneficial. The Legislature of 1862 required each town to vote whether the system should be retained or not. 1869, March 24, the Legislature abolished the school districts. The building and care of the school-houses, and hiring of teachers, formerly at the expense and under the control of each district separately, are now entrusted to the charge of the general school committee of the town. The old records of the several school districts have been destroyed, or were so imperfectly kept that it is impossible now to tell when each school-house was built.

The present school-houses are a great improvement on the olden time, but some of them are not as good, nor as well furnished as they should be in this wealthy and populous community. The difficulties in the way of an equitable and generous management of the whole system of common school education are by no means small. The old district system, and the methods of eking out the appropriation by "boarding round," by furnishing fire-wood, or by a subscription school, were to be tolerated when no better way seemed possible, but a business-like and economical management of the whole system requires that the location and building of the school-houses, and the superintendence of the schools, should be a town responsibility. Districts once populous are now almost deserted. The tendency is to settle around business centers, and here the school-houses are wont to be overstocked, while the remote schools have not sufficient pupils to excite a generous emulation among themselves and keep the energies of the teacher up to concert pitch. Since the abolition of the district system, all the public schools, the Hopland district excepted, are taught the same length of time, and all the children of the town, so far as is possible, receive equal advantages for an education.

The whole genius and tendency of the Massachusetts system of public instruction has been to furnish the best possible training for all the youth in the State. The bare rudiments of education have not been deemed all-sufficient, but as the ability and circumstances of each town warranted the increased expenditure, the needful facilities for higher education have been required. In 1851 a special committee was appointed by the town to report on the advisability of establishing a Grammar School of higher grade, and then came up the question of establishing a High School, as required by law, in every community numbering 500 families.

## THE LEE ACADEMY.

This brief summary of the educational history of the town would not be complete without giving prominence to the establishment of the Lee Academy, which was afterwards merged in the High School. In the Spring of 1835, Alexander Hyde then a recent graduate of Williams College, was induced by the friends of education in Lee, prominent among whom were William Porter, Samuel A. Hulbert, and Walter Laffin, to open a select school in the upper room of the Center school-house. This he did and continued teaching there for two years, attracting to his school some pupils from other places. He then left it to open a boarding-school at his own residence, but a public school of a high grade was now felt to be a necessity, and a meeting of the friends of education was called in February, 1837, at which William Porter presented a plan for the organization of the Lee Academy Association. This was a stock company, the shares reckoned at \$25. and each share entitling the owner to a vote. Seventy-five persons took stock in this company and committees were appointed to procure a site and plans for the Academy building. The committee on a site, reported the one on which the High School now stands, but the title to the land was in dispute between the American Bible Society, (to which it had been willed by Mrs. Tammy Adams,) and her heirs. The association purchased a quit-claim deed from the heirs and proceeded to build. The courts afterwards decided that the title was equitable in the Bible Society, but this Society freely relinquished all claim to so much of the Adams estate as was occupied by the Methodist Church and the Academy, in consideration of the buildings being occupied for the cause of religion and education.

The Academy building was completed in the Summer of 1837, and was formally dedicated Oct. 10, by an address



from I. W. Andrews, who had been selected as principal of the school, at a salary of \$400 and his board. With him was associated as assistant teacher, Miss Jerusha L. Perry. This school was conducted with varying success on its original plan as an academy, charging tuition for all pupils, both from the town and abroad, till 1851, when after a long struggle the High School was established and the building was leased to the town for a free public school. For a more minute history of the Academy, its teachers and results, see Prof. Barlow's address at the Reunion of the pupils at the time of the Town Centennial.

#### THE LEE HIGH SCHOOL.

Prof. Barlow, has given so full an account of the High School in his address, that the following brief summary must suffice for this history, giving some points on which he did not dwell. The town had for some years contained the number of families (500) which the statute required for the establishment of a High School, but the inhabitants dwelling on the Hoplands contended that for all school purposes they were entirely a distinct corporation from the town, and under no obligation to support a High School. There was much wrangling in town meeting for a series of years over this question, and it was not till Samuel A. Hulbert threatened to sue the town for violation of statute, the penalty for which was twice the amount the town ever raised in one year for school purposes, that the matter was referred to two eminent jurists, Messrs. Dewey of Williamstown, and Sumner of Gt. Barrington. These gentlemen, after a thorough investigation of the law and the facts in the case, decided that the town was liable to pay the penalty unless the High School was established, and that the Hoplands were under obligation to unite with the town for its support. Thus this long vexed question was finally settled,

and in April, 1851, the Academy was converted into a free High School, the trustees renting the building to the town for this purpose, and the school committee employing Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Hall, the former teachers of the Academy, to continue their labors.

The Academy Association however was still continued, and the rents received from the town were applied to the extinguishment of the debt of the corporation, and for repairs on the building. This arrangement continued till 1864, when the town school committee asked the Academy stockholders to transfer their stock to the town on condition that the town should continue to furnish a free High School. As no dividend had ever been paid on this stock and none was ever expected, and as the High School was successfully fulfilling the mission of the Academy, most of the stockholders were glad to transfer, and the town thus became possessed without expense, of sixty-four shares (a majority) of the stock, and had a controlling power over the building. A few stockholders refused to transfer their shares, but these have mostly died, and in no known instance has this stock been appraised among their assets. The old Academy corporation is still kept up, and the records are in the hands of the clerk, Mr. Wm. J. Bartlett. From these it appears, that the last meeting of the trustees was held June 20, 1866, so that practically the High School building is owned and managed by the town. That this school has done this community a great service is patent to all, and was specially manifest at the Centennial, when so many of its graduates returned and acknowledged their obligations to their *alma mater*. An alumni association was then formed, which it is hoped will still further extend the success of this institution. For a minute history of the High School see Prof. Barlow's address.

## THE SOUTH LEE BRANCH OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

At the time of the establishment of the High School (1851), it was objected that the citizens of South Lee, while contributing to its support, lived too remotely to be much benefited by it. The town, appreciating this objection, voted to support a branch High School in South Lee, to be taught each Winter as long as the appropriation might last. Accordingly a room was hired in that part of the town, and a Select School taught there each Winter, generally for four months. The attendance at first was small, often less than a score, but of late years the number of pupils has increased, and the school is proving a greater success. It is attracting some pupils from Great Barrington (Beartown), and is furnishing means for a higher education to many who otherwise would not enjoy them. The only regret now is that the schools in this part of the town are not graded, so as to furnish facilities for instruction of a higher order through the entire year.

## THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The history of the Lee Grammar School is a short one, for it was established in the Spring of 1876, and is not yet two years old. It is noticeable that there was the same opposition to the establishment of this institution that so long hindered the town from having a High School. For years, the school committee brought the subject before the town and urged its necessity from the crowded condition of the Common and High Schools, and in consideration of the numbers that never attained to the High School, but who ought to have better advantages for education than the common schools generally furnished. The Hoplands uniformly opposed the project, and as the law did not require the town to support such a school it was defeated year after year, till, finally, the town

voted in 1876 to establish a Grammar School separately from the Hoplands, and appropriated a thousand dollars for fitting up the upper room of the High School building for this purpose and for the pay of the teacher. The room was new floored, furrowed out, plastered and furnished with the best school furniture, for less than \$500, and is decidedly the most commodious and pleasant school-room in town. The committee were fortunate in procuring the services of Mr. S. V. Halsey, a graduate of the High School, who had proved himself a thorough teacher in the common schools, and six weeks had not elapsed after the town had made the appropriation before he opened his school. The Grammar School promises to be a permanent and beneficial institution in the town.

#### THE HOPLAND SCHOOL CORPORATION.

The town of Great Barrington 1770, January 22, voted that the settlers in the Hopland division should have the proceeds of the sales of land set apart in that section for schooling. 1782, March 18, on the Lee records is the vote that the town will "take care of the school lands." March 28 we read "the above land is voted to that part of the inhabitants belonging to the said Hoplands."

1790, May 31, the town voted that they had no objection to the desire of the people of Hopland to be incorporated into a society for supporting schools. The Hopland district was incorporated March 7, 1791. An Explanatory Act was passed 1797, March 11, forbidding town assessments for school purposes on Hopland residents. Still further powers seem to have been needed, and 1798, June 19, it was enacted that if the fund be insufficient, the Hopland district should have authority to levy taxes for such additional sums as might be needed and voted. In 1830, February 12, authority was given to divide the territory into school districts. The Hopland



fund, now amounting to \$1,600, with an income of \$96, is still held separate, and managed by the Hopland people. A proposition was made, 1808, March 7, for the first time, and repeatedly since, that the town should raise an equal amount, and that thereafter the schools and school-houses in the Hoplands should be under the management of the town committee in the same way as are the other public schools, but the proposition has never met with favor by the Hopland corporation, and the anomaly remains of a town being divided against itself by arbitrary lines on the vital point of education. The district system is by sufferance still retained on the Hoplands, though abolished by the general statute of 1869. Within the limits of this corporation are six districts, in which agents are appointed to hire the teachers and take care of the school property, but the Town Committee examine the teachers and have a general superintendence of the schools.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE: ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The laying out of roads was a frequent item of business transacted at the annual and special town meetings. The era of road making seems to have been about 1780. Many of the first settlers built their houses simply with reference to a convenient location for work on the land they had purchased. As the thoroughfares for common travel took direction, some of these original locations were found to be very far one side from the generally traveled ways. The town at first had not been very exacting in regard to the location of the roads, but laid out a highway wherever a family needed some such connection with the outer world.

The first road or path from Springfield on the Connecticut to the Housatonic townships, was that used by General Amherst and his army in 1759, on his way from Boston to Albany. For many years after the Revolution

this was known as the Great Road from Boston to Albany, and was the only road between those places that crossed the County of Berkshire. It passed through the towns of Blandford, Otis, Sandisfield, Tyringham, Great Barrington, and so on up to Albany. Burgoyne's army, after the surrender at Stillwater, 1777, Oct. 17, passed over this road on their way to Boston, and spent one night in Tyringham. The turnpike from the Connecticut line through Otis, Becket, Lee, Lenox, and so on to the New York line, was granted in 1800. It was considered so important an event that Dr. Hyde preached a sermon on the occasion of its opening. It was given up as a turnpike in 1820, from Whiton's Furnace in Lee to the line of New York.

It was ordered by the House of Representatives, 1752, January 25, "that Elisha Hawley, with the assistance of the Stockbridge Indians, look out and mark out a horse road from Northampton to the Westerly part of the Government." Massachusetts Archives 46:324, 1753, December 4, mention is made of a road lately cut from Northampton to Albany.

The road to Lee branched off from the Great Road above named, passed over the ledges known as the Becket Stairs, and so on into the territory of Lee. It was at first a rough bridle or cart path, rougher than the wood roads of the present day through the timber land.

Various roads, previously traveled, were accepted, 1780, March 29, but as early as 1783, March 3, it was voted to discontinue several of the roads. In those days, it would seem that every one built his house where it seemed to him most convenient in carrying on his farm. Then he expected that the town would establish and maintain a road to his door. It is no wonder that in a very few years it was found necessary to abandon as needless, or

too burdensome, such an endless variety of roads, lanes, highways and pent roads.

The surveyor would not now be considered "a skillful artist," as the phrase was in those days, who, in locating a public road, should not give courses and distances, but such loose, general directions as "past Ben Smith's potato hole," coming into "the old road leading through Dogtown." The first road located by accurate measurement, is the Stockbridge road, leading past Mr. Hyde's, altered at that point in 1807.

#### REPAIRING HIGHWAYS.

In 1789, the town voted that the whole territory should be divided into four districts for repairing highways, and that a surveyor should be appointed in each district to superintend repairs.

£150 voted for repairing roads.

4s. a day allowed for labor till October 1st, after that, 2s. 6d., and the same for team and plow or cart. Boys not 16 years old not allowed wages on the highway.

1799, \$500 voted for highways.

1802, voted to buy 9 scrapers, one for each highway district.

1804, Selectmen to attend to all roads having no regular record, make a survey and such alterations as they think proper.

\$1,000 to repair; 1805, \$800; 1823, \$800 and \$500 to repair bridges.

1862, authority to Selectmen to keep walks in village clear of snow.

1868, April 6, \$1,305.56 were paid for macadamizing Water street road.

\$800 appropriated to macadamize Main street.

1869, not to remove earth for repairs of roads, except in emergency, after September 30th.

For many years past, the care of the roads has been in the hands of the Selectmen, who have employed a competent person to superintend the repairs.

#### TURNPIKES.

From 1787 to 1805, there was a mania for building turnpikes, similar to the railroad mania of later years. Turnpikes were everywhere, and the taxation of transportation was universal, but that transportation tax was not for many years felt to be a grievance. These roads greatly facilitated access to markets, and in the same degree increased the value of real estate on every route through which they passed. It is but a few years since the towns took them out of the hands of their proprietors, and assumed their support at the public charge.

The Tenth Massachusetts or Farmington River Turnpike Corporation, was established 1800, June 16. The road began at the point where the Farmington river crosses the line between Massachusetts and Connecticut, and thence passed through Sandisfield, Bethlehem, now a part of Otis, Becket and Lee to Lenox Court House; thence, over the mountain through Richmond and Hancock, to the New York State Line. The Tyringham and Lee Corporation, established 1805, March 15, connected points in these two adjoining towns.

In 1805, the town appointed a Committee to wait on a Committee appointed by the General Court to explore a route for a turnpike through this town—to show a better route than the one contemplated, but to remonstrate against any turnpike through the town. The remonstrance did not avail, for the Housatonic Turnpike, from Whiton's furnace at East Lee, through Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, was granted in 1806.

1813, turnpike granted to Joseph Bradley's.

1824, turnpike from Lee to Sandisfield.



1855, the Tenth Massachusetts Turnpike was laid out as a county road.

The mania for turnpikes has entirely passed away. They doubtless did service in their day, opening highways by means of corporations, when the towns were too poor to incur the expense. The impression was also prevalent that corporations, taking toll from travelers, would keep their roads in better repair than the towns would, and this, for half a century after the settlement of this country, was probably the fact. Toll-gates, however, became in the course of time, a great nuisance, and one turnpike after another was given up till all were abandoned, and the towns assumed the entire responsibility of the roads. Some old fogies predicted that the highways would degenerate under town supervision, but their prophecy has not been fulfilled. The roads have steadily improved since turnpikes were abolished, and more especially since the making and repairing of them has been entrusted to some skillful roadmaker. When the custom was to allow every man "to work out his road tax," the roads had a very botched-up look. Turfs and stones disfigured them, and mud impeded travel. The material for road repairing was quite uniformly taken from the side ditches, and was more fit for the dung-hill than for a road-bed. Now, gravel is commonly used for road-repairing, and never were the roads of the town in so good condition as in this Centennial year.

The improvement in bridges has been as great as in the roads. The first bridges were mere foot-paths, often made by falling a tree across the stream. Horses and vehicles were expected to ford the streams. The first bridges were rude structures with log abutments and piers, on which were stretched huge hemlock logs hewn on one side so as to furnish a level surface for the plank-floor. These bridges were short lived, and needed

constant repairs. Stone abutments and piers were early substituted for those built up of logs, cob-house fashion, but it was not till the first half century of the town was completed that the principle of the arch was applied to the building of bridges in this town. The first truss bridge was built across the Housatonic, at the upper end of the village, at what was then called "The Huddle. It was a poor affair compared with modern structures, but did not shake with every passing vehicle as did the old bridges, whose stringers were unsupported. The first iron bridge in town was built over the Housatonic on West Park street in 1876, and is a very substantial and handsome structure. The cost of this bridge (\$3,700) was partly defrayed by individuals.

#### THE PITTSFIELD AND STOCKBRIDGE RAILROAD.

The Housatonic Railroad had been running several years to Van Deusenville and State Line, before what is now the main line of the road from Housatonic to Pittsfield was constructed. The extension from Canaan, the original terminus, to State line, was built in 1848. The project of a railroad through Lee was pushed with great energy by Samuel A. Hulbert, and others. The company, which built the road, was incorporated in 1848, and on the first of January, 1850, the road was opened. It is 22 miles long, and cost \$440,000. It is operated by the Housatonic Railroad Company, which pays for its perpetual lease a rental of seven per cent. on the cost.

The opening of this road gave a great impulse to the business of Lee. It enabled the manufacturers to transport their raw material and manufactured goods, not only at much less expense but in much less time and with more certainty. Before the construction of the Housatonic road, a journey from Lee to New York was a tedious affair, especially in the Winter, when the Hudson

river was closed by ice. The route was commonly via Hudson City and thence down the river by steamboat. Before the era of steamboats, the passage down the river was as uncertain as the wind, sometimes occupying a week or ten days. Goods and passengers were conveyed up and down the river by sloops, and between Hudson and Lee by horse-power, the farmers doing most of the latter transportation. Railroads revolutionized all this; and though some of the farmers thought and said that these roads would ruin the agriculture of the town, would make horses useless and oats worthless; the result proved just the contrary. Agriculture, as well as manufactures, received an impulse; real estate rose rapidly; farms improved, and the material progress of the town was never so rapid as for a few years after the extension of the Housatonic road to Pittsfield. For this, the town is greatly indebted to Hon. Samuel A. Hulbert, who threw his mighty energy into the enterprise of constructing this road, and carried it through, in spite of all obstacles, by the force of his will, and indomitable perseverance.

#### LEE AND NEW HAVEN RAILROAD.

Public attention was early directed to the feasibility of a railroad from Lee, up the outlet of Greenwater Lake to West Becket, thence down the Farmington river to connect at the Connecticut State line with roads leading to Hartford and New Haven. As early as 1848, a company was incorporated to carry this enterprise into effect. The charter having expired without any thing being accomplished, it was renewed in 1864, and four years were granted for the construction of the road. In 1867, the Legislature extended the time for construction to 1870, and in 1868, a State loan of \$300,000 was authorized, on certain conditions, to aid in its construction. In 1869, at a special town meeting, held September 8, Lee voted to

subscribe \$75,000 to the stock of this road, and issue bonds in payment therefor, but no subscription was ever made though the vote was never reconsidered. In 1870, fresh efforts were made to raise funds, and the towns of Otis, Sandisfield and Tolland, subscribed \$105,000 to its stock, Otis and Sandisfield \$40,000 each, and Tolland \$25,000. In this year, also, the time for the construction of the road was extended to June 5, 1872, the time in which the State scrip could be issued under the Loan Act. The necessary funds were not raised at this time, and again the Company went before the Legislature asking an extension of time for construction till June 5, 1875, which was granted, but nothing in the Act was said about the extension of the State aid, the Chairman of the Railroad Committee saying that an extension of time was all that was necessary. September 20, 1872, subscriptions to the stock having been made, sufficient in the opinion of the directors to warrant it, a contract was made with J. B. Davis & Co., for the construction of the entire road from Lee to the Connecticut State line, a distance of 25 miles, for \$600,000. Work under this contract was commenced November 1, of the same year, and pushed vigorously. In the meantime, some doubt having arisen whether the Act, extending the time of construction, continued also the promised State aid, a bill was reported by the Railway Committee, and passed in both Houses in 1873, revising and extending the Loan Act of 1870. This bill was vetoed by the Governor, May 16, 1873. Strenuous effort was made to pass the bill over the Governor's veto, but it failed, as also all endeavors subsequently to renew the State Loan. Work on the road ceased soon after the reception of the news of the veto, but not till after the contractors had expended nearly \$100,000, and had been paid about \$60,000. It is still hoped that direct railroad communication between



Southern Berkshire and Hartford and New Haven may be established, but there is no immediate prospect of it.

#### LEE AND HUDSON RAILROAD.

At the time of the construction of the Boston and Albany railroad, a survey was made by John Morgan of Stockbridge, of a route from Westfield via. Otis, Becket, Lee, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge to the New York State line, which was found to be some 13 miles shorter than the route finally selected via. Pittsfield. The hope has never been given up that the Boston and Albany Railroad Co. would at some time shorten their route by building a road on the line surveyed by Mr. Morgan, and when the Lee and New Haven road was likely to be built, a continuation of it to West Stockbridge so as to intersect with the Boston and Albany at the State Line, was deemed highly desirable. This enterprise was favored by the directors of the Boston and Albany, who gave encouragement that they would take a perpetual lease of it and put on the rolling stock. The first entry on the town records with reference to this road occurs Sept. 28, 1869, when a committee was appointed to make a cursory survey of a route from Westfield to West Stockbridge via. Lee. This Committee reported the route fully as feasible as Mr. Morgan had represented, and in April, 1871, the Lee and Hudson Railroad Co. was incorporated for building a road from Lee to West Stockbridge, there to connect with the Boston and Albany. At a special town meeting Feb. 15, 1872, it was voted to subscribe to as many shares of the stock of this company as shall amount in dollars to five per cent. of the valuation of the town, as reported by the assessors on the first of May of that year, and to issue town bonds for the payment of the same. In pursuance of this vote a subscription of \$85,000 was made. The town of Stockbridge

also voted and subscribed \$40,000 to the stock, and individuals in both towns took smaller amounts, so that the directors felt encouraged to go on with the enterprise. The road-bed had been pretty much completed, when the general financial revulsion of 1873 occurred, paralyzing all kinds of business, and especially diminishing the income of railroads. The money of the company had all been used, and the Boston and Albany Company declining to aid the enterprise, as had been the verbal understanding, the road with all its franchises was sold to pay its debts, but not till it had accomplished its purpose of reducing freights on the Housatonic road.

#### THE TOWN POOR.

In the early settlement of the town, the poor seem to have been cared for by their neighbors without much concert of action. The first record on the town books with reference to the poor occurs Dec. 26, 1785, when the selectmen were instructed "to provide for widow Handee as they think best." In 1790 commenced the plan of bidding off the keeping of the poor, venduing them as it was called, to the lowest bidder, though there was at this time only one person, "old Mr. Howard who was vendued." In 1791 a committee was appointed to investigate Mercy Baker's circumstances, and the selectmen were instructed to settle with Stephen Toby for keeping her the past year, and to have a fatherly care over other poor persons. In 1797 four were vendued to be kept at 1s. 3d. per week. In 1802 the town refused to pay Dr. Partridge's bill (\$156.52) for doctoring a poor woman. Overseers of the poor distinct from the selectmen were first proposed in 1816. The plan of bidding off the poor to anyone who would keep them at the lowest price was continued till 1854, when the present town farm was purchased of Rev. J. N. Shaffer, and

a suitable person was hired to work the farm, board the poor, have the care of the cemetery and look after the roads, bridges, and general interests of the town. This has proved a wise arrangement and a great improvement, humanely speaking, on the old plan of "vending."

#### THE CEMETERY.

The burial of its dead is one of the first cares of a town, and accordingly in 1778, the year after the incorporation of Lee, the town appointed a committee to select and purchase a "burying ground." The committee seem to have taken due time for deliberation, for no further action was taken by the town on this subject till the March meeting of 1785, when the report of the committee recommending the purchase of 100 square rods of Levi Nye for a burying ground was accepted. This was the eastern section of our present cemetery. Subsequently, in 1804, one half acre more was purchased of "Deacon Nye," for \$20. In this year also, the selectmen were instructed to procure a pall, and a small lot, 30 square rods, with a right of way to same was purchased of Wm. Ingersoll for a burying ground in South Lee. In 1854 the town purchased of Rev. J. N. Shaffer the present town farm and enlarged the cemetery lot. The vault at the Center Cemetery was built in 1856, and the one at South Lee in 1857. In 1862 the selectmen were authorized to regulate the lots and remedy all infringements by individuals. The first person buried in the cemetery was Matty Handy, sister of the late Seth Handy. The whole number deposited in the Center Cemetery in the first century is estimated at about 4,000, or the present living population of the town.

#### MORALS OF THE EARLY TIMES.

It is customary to refer to the period of settlement as one of great purity in morals, but the records of the

church and town do not warrant this reputation. Drunkenness, theft, profanity and licentiousness, evidently prevailed more then, in proportion to the population, than now. Liquors were sold in the stores and taverns without restraint. Everybody drank, but all did not drink to excess. Wines were furnished at all weddings, liquors at "raisings," "bees," and other public gatherings, and cider, as soon as the apple orchards were started, was a common beverage. When a neighbor called in for an evening visit, it was considered uncourteous not to bring forward a pitcher of cider. Even the ministers drank at their gatherings.

The records of the church show that the cases of discipline for drunkenness and licentiousness were frequent, but it should be remembered, in reference to these that discipline was strict in those times, and that in a sparse population all violations of law and order are apt to be known and much talked about. The Sabbath was kept with great strictness, and all traveling on this day, except for worship, was prohibited. There are records of fines for violation of the Sabbath statute ranging from \$2.00 to \$18.00. The penalty for profanity was less; usually six shillings.

As early as 1825, the temperance reformation began its work here. About this time, Dr. Hyde preached a sermon on the wisdom of the Rechabites in their abstinence from wine and all intoxicating drinks. This sermon was published and widely circulated. Dr. Hewitt of Bridgeport, one of the early apostles of temperance was invited to preach here, and did so to a very full house. Public opinion soon banished the sale of liquors from the stores, and at a meeting of the church in August, 1829, it was voted to be the duty of all members to abstain wholly from the use of ardent spirits for the sake of example. From that day to this, it appears from



the records that the town has very uniformly voted in favor of temperance measures.

#### FIRE DISTRICT.

With the increase of buildings, came increased exposure from fire. The means at first relied upon for protection were the simplest possible. A long step in advance was taken, when in place of precarious reliance on neighborly sympathy and aid, a well organized fire company volunteered to provide themselves with apparatus for extinguishing fires, and to discipline themselves so as to use it most advantageously. In 1856, the "Water Witch" fire engine was purchased by liberal individual subscriptions, and this engine and the efficient company by which it has been manned, has done notable service at various fires. The "Water Witch" has ever been kept in good repair, and the uniformed company is ready at a moment's warning for work. 1856, July 9, the town voted to purchase land near N. Gibbs, Esq., and build a house for the "Water Witch" engine. A commodious building was accordingly erected with a hall in the second story fitted up for the meetings of the company. At the annual meeting in 1859, the town voted to establish a fire district, in which was included the Center, North Center and North-west School districts. This organization is kept up with efficiency. About the time of the purchase of the "Water Witch" engine, the "Forest Engine Company" was organized in Water street, and an engine purchased by subscription, the town erecting a suitable building for housing it. This fire company has also done good service, but its organization is not so efficient as that of the "Water Witch" Company, as the latter is sustained by the Fire District Corporation.

## FARMING AND FARMERS.

The difficulty of subduing the soil, and bringing the wild lands into productive farms, was enhanced in the time when Lee was first settled, by the clumsy implements then in use. The blacksmith was then one of the most useful members of the community. Iron was prized as highly as it is now in some of the South Sea Islands. But the virgin soil yielded bountifully to the hand of diligence. Abundant harvests of wheat, flax, Indian corn, potatoes and hay, rewarded patient labor. But at the commencement of the present century, the imperfect system of husbandry, that knew not how to make the most of natural resources, had so far reduced its fertility, and the difficulties of remunerative cultivation of rocky hill-sides proved so great, that the wheat lands of the Genesee Valley, the open prairies, or the rich alluvium of the river bottoms of the far West, drew heavily from the farming population of this town.

There are on each side of the Housatonic, extensive plains of rich alluvial land of the first quality, easily tilled and very productive. These lands vary in width from the narrow swales in the northern section of the town to the wide interval lands of the south part. The soil of the uplands is a loam, interspersed with gravel and stones, particularly on the east side of the river; on the west side there is more clay. Ground gypsum, one of the first special fertilizers recommended, was used with very good effect. Many of the farmers have learned to utilize various waste products of the manufactories in the compost heaps which they use upon their lands. The farming community has been as liable, as the mercantile and manufacturing community, to various manias. Legislation has been brought in to give fictitious importance to particular products, as in the "*morus multicaulis*" fever, when many thought to grow suddenly rich by raising mul-

berries and silk-worms. In 1840 the town paid a bounty for raising wheat, but of late years farmers have been better satisfied with what advantages they had, and studied how most to profit by them.

The Berkshire Agricultural Society, the oldest in the United States, was incorporated 1811. The farmers of Lee, since the first cattle show at Pittsfield, have been connected with this society. The Housatonic Agricultural Society at Great Barrington, was originated in 1841, though not incorporated till 1848. Designed for the accommodation of the residents of Southern Berkshire, some of the farmers of Lee have from the very first been connected with it.

The soil of Lee, on an average, is not so rich, nor so well adapted to farming as in the lower river towns of the county. But the farmers of this town, owners of the soil, eager for securing greater productiveness, have been diligent in the pursuit of agricultural science as well as in the accumulation of agricultural wealth. In 1828, one-fourth of the people of the County were engaged in farming. By the census of 1875, out of a total population in the town of 3,900, only 285 are given as occupied in Agriculture. 2,536 acres in tillage, (valued at \$206.678,) 85 in orchards, woodland 2,873, unimproved 3,108, unimprovable 162; total, 8,764 acres, in 57 farms, 15,046 acres are taxed; 466 horses are reported, 44 oxen, 766 cows, 491 sheep, 235 lambs. Agricultural products are valued at \$116,682.

## INDUSTRIAL.

### THE EARLY INDUSTRIES OF LEE.

AGRICULTURE was the leading occupation of the first settlers of the town, and so continued for the first half century. Mechanics of various kinds followed early in the

wake of farmers, for in those days almost every hamlet had its blacksmith, shoe-maker, tailor, carpenter and wagon-maker, and every considerable village was expected to furnish, besides the above-named, a merchant, a painter and glazier, a hatter, a cabinet-maker, a cooper, a fuller, a watch-maker and a tanner. The idea of making cloth and clothing, boots and shoes, hats, caps, etc., in factories, had not then been conceived. Cotton fabrics were almost unknown. Wool and flax were spun and woven in almost every farmer's family, and the woolen goods were taken to the fullers to be fulled and dressed. Home-made, or "hum-made," as it was called, was the rule for men, women and children. Many families were almost independent of mechanics and merchants, the husband, besides attending to his husbandry, doing his own carpentering, cobbling and smithing, and the wife,—originally signifying a weaver,—besides attending to her ordinary household duties, "minding the baby," etc., was also a spinner, weaver, and seamstress. Thus David Baker, when he first came to town, was a shoe-maker as well as a farmer. In Winter, when farming business was not pressing, he went around among his neighbors making and mending their boots and shoes, they furnishing the leather, and he working for a Yankee sixpence per hour, or six shillings for a day's work of twelve hours.

The first pressing want of a new colony is lumber for houses and barns, and accordingly one of the first industries of Lee was the sawing of lumber, for which the forests and streams furnished abundant facilities. The first saw-mills were erected on the mountain streams that are tributary to the Housatonic, and which at that time flowed more evenly through the year than they have since the forests have been leveled. At one time there were half a dozen saw-mills in operation here, and lumber constituted the chief article of export, the farmers



transporting it by horse-power to Hudson, and bringing back salt, molasses, sugar and other groceries, Santa Cruz and New England rum, we are sorry to add, being included.

A grist-mill was another of the wants of the early settlers, and was early supplied by John Winegar, who came here in 1770, and built a grist-mill on the Housatonic, just above the site of the Columbia Paper Mill, of the Smith Paper Co. Mr. Winegar afterwards built another grist-mill in Water street, on the stream that comes from Lakes May and Green-Water. These, and the mills afterwards built at the north-end of the village, and at South Lee, did custom work, almost without exception taking a sixteenth part of the grist as toll for grinding.

Tanning was another of the early industries of the town. Every farmer expected to get his hides and skins tanned, as much as he expected to take his grist to mill. The boots and shoes of the men were mostly made from cowhide, and those of the women from calf-skin. Hence, in after time, when finer leather was introduced, the farmers were styled "the cowhide gentry." Samuel Stanley was the first tanner and currier. His establishment was at the hamlet called Dodgetown, a mile or more east of Mr. John B. Freeman's. Levi Crittenden subsequently ran a tannery at East Lee, and in the early part of the present century there were four tanneries in operation in this town, one in Bradley street, and one at South Lee. These establishments were on a small scale, doing mostly custom work. Tanning was a slow process at that time, as the hides were allowed to lie in "the liquor" two or three years. The tanner might say with the old Grecian painter, I tan a long time and for a long time, for the cowhide boots, with a pair of new taps and possibly a cap or two, were expected to last at least a year, and "turn the water" all this time.

Before the introduction of silk hats and cloth caps, a hatter was a necessary mechanic in every considerable village. Mr. Amos Burchard was the hatter for Lee. His shop stood on the corner east of the present residence of Mr. Caleb Phinney. Here he made the stiff stove-pipe hats of those times from fur and wool, felting them by the tedious hand-bow process. Boys and laboring men commonly wore wool hats, while older and wealthier farmers indulged in a fur *chapeau*, and the cocked-up hat was reserved for the gentry. Neither a tanner's vat nor a hatter's shop, is now to be found in Lee.

Another industry of the olden time, now extinct, was the manufacture of pottery. This was carried on at South Lee. The clay was taken from a bed near the base of Beartown mountain, and was fitted only for the manufacture of coarse articles. The clay is now used for the manufacture of brick.

The first iron works in the town were started by Theophilus Mansfield, at South Lee, then called the Upper Hoplands. Mr. Mansfield first built the grist-mill there, and then, in connection with John Keep, the bloomer, and Abijah Merrill, the blacksmith, erected a puddling furnace long known as The Forge. This was a successful enterprise, and long continued the leading industry at South Lee, but finally gave way to the still more successful business of paper-making. Mr. Merrill, one of the leaders in this enterprise, afterwards started the first iron-works in Pittsfield.

This region, at the time of its settlement, was covered with a dense forest, and "clearing up" the land was the first work of the farmers. The best pine trees, when near a saw mill, were reserved for lumber, but the beech, birch, maple and hemlock that constituted the bulk of the forest trees, were felled in windrows and burned. The value of ashes as a fertilizer was then little understood,

and many were gathered from these windrows and from the enormous fire-places, and sold at a very low figure for the manufacture of potash. Major Dillingham, among his other enterprises, was the manufacturer of potash, and sent a horse and wagon around from farm to farm bartering tea, spices, etc., for ashes. His leach tubs and kettles were set up in the rear of his hotel, the "Red Lion," and some of his big kettles are still to be found in the hog-pens of the farmers, now used for boiling swill. This industry ceased early in the present century when our forests were more highly appreciated for lumber and fuel. It would have been better for the agriculture of the town had potash never been manufactured here, for it does not appear that the leached ashes were ever returned to the farms.

A pot-furnace was early established, and continued for many years at East Lee by James Whiton, who afterwards took his sons into partnership, and finally went into the paper business, which seemed destined to swallow up all other industries here. Mr. Whiton is remembered as an enterprising and enthusiastic man. As an evidence of his enthusiasm, it is told that he prophesied that Lee was to become a second Manchester.

A cupola furnace was also built in the early part of this century, by Mr. Tarsus Botsford, in the north-east part of the town, on a stream which comes down from Washington mountain, but it does not appear to have done much business.

In the remains of old limekilns scattered over the town, there is abundant evidence that limestone, the prevailing rock on the west side of the Housatonic, was early used for the manufacture of lime. It would seem from the multitude of these old kilns that every farmer, when about to erect a house, built a kiln in which to burn his own lime. Certainly they were very temporary struc-

tures. The business of burning lime is now centered in the large and well constructed kiln of Messrs. Gross and Stallman, which is a self-feeder and is run continually night and day, turning out about 100 bushels of lime each twenty-four hours. The market for this product is mostly found in the local paper mills.

Another of the early industries which must not be ignored, was the distillery business. To the credit of the town be it said, that this was never carried on extensively here, though at one time early in the century there were two stills in operation, mainly for the manufacture of cider brandy. When the temperance reformation commenced, about 1825, they were both abandoned, and the worm of the still has not been seen here since.

Two fulling mills were early started in this town, one in Water street and the other at South Lee. Nathan Dillingham was part proprietor of the one in Water street, and an amusing incident is told of him in connection with this mill, illustrating his shrewdness and the simple mode of administering justice in those days. Some cloth was stolen from the mill one night, and in the morning, the theft being known, the neighbors assembled together to devise ways for detecting the thief and bringing him to justice. Major Dillingham, suspecting one of the company, said, "Who knows but that the thief is right here among us? I propose that we draw lots to see who he is." To this all consented, partly in fun and partly in earnest, for there was a little superstition lurking in the minds of the early settlers. Accordingly the major prepared some straws, all of even length, and proposed that the one who drew the longest straw should be held as the thief. The man whose conscience accused him thought to avoid suspicion by shortening his straw, and when they compared the lots his short straw revealed his guilt. The major fastening his sharp eye upon him said, "Thou art the man."



The thief broke down and confessed his crime. With the era of woolen factories the fulling business disappeared.

The war of 1812 greatly stimulated the manufacture of woolen goods in this country, and two of the young men of this town, Isaac Ball and Lemuel Bassett, were led to form a partnership and undertake the manufacture of satinet. Under the firm name of Ball, Bassett & Co., they built a small mill on the outlet of Laurel Lake, near its entrance into the Housatonic. The business prospered and they gradually enlarged their operations. In 1828, they reported themselves as employing fourteen hands, using 12,000 lbs. of wool annually, and manufacturing 12,000 yards of satinet, 1,000 yards of broadcloth, and 300 yards of felting. In 1819, another woolen factory was started in South Lee, that employed ten hands. This seems like a small business now, but in those days these factories were regarded as important, and they certainly contributed not a little to the development of the town. When the large establishments of Lowell and Lawrence went into operation, the small factories of the country found it impossible to compete successfully with the capital and machinery there employed, and those in Lee were sold and converted into paper mills.

Another industry of no little importance in the early history of the town, was the manufacture of chair-stuff. The forests abounded with large maple and beech trees, which the farmers felled, sawed, split and shaved into sticks of suitable size for chair legs and backs, and then hauled them to the shops, where they were turned by water-power, and thence sent to the large chair factories in the cities, principally to New York. Fenner Foote, Joseph Chapman and Robert Lischman, early in the present century, commenced the manufacture of chair-stuff in Water street, and afterwards Stephen Thatcher and the

brothers, Thomas and Cornelius Bassett, started a still larger turning shop on the Housatonic, in the north end of the village, called at that time "the Huddle." In 1828, there were four turning shops in town, that of Messrs. Thatcher and Bassett employing ten hands, paying annually \$4,000 for lumber and exporting \$8,000 worth of chair-stuff. These turning shops, like most of the early manufacturing establishments, were finally merged into paper mills.

Mr. Thatcher is still living and is almost a centenarian, having been born March 6, 1781. His years and the important part he has played in the history of Lee, demand more than a passing notice. He came with his father, Deacon Roland Thatcher from Wareham to Lee, when he was seventeen years of age. The journey of 150 miles, was made in the Winter on an ox-sled, and occupied seventeen days. For three years he worked on the farm which his father had bought a little north-east of the village, now owned by Pliny M. Shaylor. Being of an enterprising turn of mind, farm-life seemed tame to him, and he desired to become a sailor and see the world. The whaling business was then coming into prominence, and Hudson was fitting out some whaling ships. Thither he went at the age of twenty with the intention of becoming a whaler, but not finding a situation to suit him, he turned his attention to turnpiking, and worked as a common laborer on the turnpike then being built between Albany and Schenectady. He followed this business for several seasons, part of the time as overseer, returning to his father's in Lee to spend the Winters. During the war of 1812, he started the manufacture of wire here on a small scale, which he continued till the competition from England, rendered it no longer profitable. The manufacture of chair-stuff was his next enterprise, and this he continued till lumber became scarce and the style of

chairs was changed, when he turned his attention to making paper, building a mill in Water street. In connection with the paper business he also started the manufacture of paper bonnets. The paper was made thick and of a straw color, and was then stamped with a large copper plate, giving it an impression which was a very good imitation of Leghorn straw. This business had a short run but was very profitable while it lasted, the Navarino bonnets, as they were called, sometimes retailing for five dollars when their actual cost was not five cents. Mr. Thatcher continued in the paper business here till 1852, when he sold out and removed to Saratoga, N. Y., where he lives with his son-in-law, Mr. Jared Ingersoll. His mind is still active, and it was hoped that he would be present at the Centennial, and contribute to the pleasant reminiscences of the occasion, but his friends thought him too feeble to undertake the journey.

Among the manufacturing industries to which the war of 1812 gave an impulse, was that of cotton fabrics. During this war, a duck factory was started in this town by Messrs. Elisha Foote and Ransom Hinman. A large building was erected on Main street, opposite the block now owned by P. C. Baird. For a time the business was profitable. It was literally a manufacturing establishment, for the work was all done by hand power. Of course such a factory could not stand the competition with England, which the close of the war brought, to say nothing of the competition from factories in our own country driven by water, and more eligibly located for transportation. After the failure of Messrs. Foote and Hinman, the duck factory stood idle for many years, and was finally sawed in two parts, Mr. Abner Taylor purchasing one for a cabinet shop, and the Messrs. Laffin the other for a store. The remains of the old duck factory may now be seen in the tin shop of Mr. Chauncy W.

Smith, and the cabinet shop of Messrs. Horton and Taintor.

In 1817, Messrs. Winthrop and Walter Laffin, and Riley Loomis, moved into town from Southwick, Mass., and commenced the manufacture of powder at the north end of the village, under the firm name of Laffin, Loomis & Co. The Erie canal was at this time in the process of construction, and the rock excavations in this enterprise, furnished so good a market for Lee powder, that another mill was soon started near South Lee, on a stream coming down from Beartown Mountain, which has ever since been called Powder-mill Brook. Messrs. Laffin, Loomis & Co., were men of capital and enterprise, and their advent to this town gave a great impulse to its business. The average quantity of powder manufactured by them per day, was 25 kegs, and as they required but few hands, and the raw materials, charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre, were not expensive, the business proved lucrative. The explosions however, were frequent, and the destruction of life and property was great. In 1823, November 28, Mercy Brown and Walter Quigly, were mortally burned by the explosion of the mill of Messrs. Laffin, Loomis & Co. In September of the following year, Charles Targee, Thomas I. Beach and Jesse Sparks, were instantly killed by the blowing up of the same mill, while Edmund Hinckley survived the explosion two days. In December of the same year, two men were killed by the explosion of the mill in South Lee. The mill at the north end of the village, was so near to other buildings, that the explosion in September, at which time it was estimated there were five tons of powder burned—damaged many houses in the neighborhood, and produced consternation throughout the town. Mr. Loomis was himself near the mill at the time of the explosion, and came very near losing his life from the falling timbers. There



was a general protest against rebuilding the mill in the same locality, and in this opinion the proprietors coinciding, this water privilege was sold for the manufacture of paper. The mill at South Lee was operated some years longer, but the business was finally abandoned here also.

In 1820, Messrs. Samuel A. and Amos G. Hulbert, brothers and partners, commenced the manufacture of carriages and sleighs at the north end of the village. These gentlemen were skillful mechanics, young, energetic and persevering, well adapted to supplement each other, as Samuel A. was a blacksmith, bound to strike hard blows, and make even iron bend to his strong will, while Amos G. was a worker in wood, more gentle in his ways, making the wood to bend to suit his taste by the aid of steam and steady pressure. They commenced on a small scale, each with one boy to assist him in his department, and had made quite a number of sleighs and wagons when their shop was burned. Insurance was not customary in those days, and they were uninsured, except in the esteem of their neighbors, which they had won to a remarkable degree by their industry and manly bearing. With the assistance of their neighbors, a new and larger building was soon erected, and their business started off with new life. One apprentice after another was taken, and so systematically was the business managed, and so thoroughly were the apprentices trained, both mechanically and morally, that this carriage shop came to be considered one of the best schools in town, and the graduates from it were regarded as having a diploma entitling them to respect in any community. Certainly, with very few exceptions, they proved to be good mechanics and good men. The carriages of the Messrs. Hulbert had a high reputation in all our cities, and orders for them came from the other side of the Atlantic. At the time the

Housatonic railroad was projected, the company were employing from thirty to forty hands. The energies of Mr. S. A. Hulbert were now directed to the construction of the Stockbridge and Pittsfield road, a branch of the Housatonic, of which he was made president, and to his indomitable energy and perserverance, the town is greatly indebted for the successful prosecution of this enterprise. The road, however, ran directly through the then extensive shops of the Messrs. Hulbert, necessitating their removal. The attention of the senior partner had become so much enlisted in other matters, that he did not care to continue the carriage business, and the partnership was accordingly dissolved, and the business discontinued.

In 1828, Messrs. Lewis Beach and James H. Royce came to Lee, and commenced the manufacture of carding machines in Water street, under the firm name of Beach & Royce. The business prospered and in addition to carding machines, they soon added the manufacture of other woolen machinery. In 1832, this firm built a stone cotton factory located a few rods west of their machine shop. In this they placed thirty looms, and employed forty-five hands, manufacturing about 1,200 yards of sheeting per day. In 1837, Messrs. Beach & Royce took in Mr. Edward P. Tanner as a partner in the machine business, and gave their own attention principally to the cotton mill. Mr. Tanner came to Lee in 1835 from Kinderhook, a thorough mechanic, first taking the position of a journeyman in the machine shop, in two years becoming a partner, and in five years more sole owner of this branch of the business of Messrs. Beach & Royce. The latter firm continued the manufacture of sheetings till 1850, when they put in some machinery for weaving seamless grain bags. The mill was run on this production till 1862, when Mr. Beach left the firm, and Mr. Royce converted the factory into a mill for the manufacture of pulp

from the native white poplar, an article greatly in demand during the war, taking the place of rags in the manufacture of news and book papers. The inventor of the machinery for the manufacture of pulp from wood demanded so great a royalty, that the business was not profitable when the war closed, and rags were cheap, consequently its production ceased and the mill has stood idle for some years. Messrs. Beach and Royce suffered great vicissitudes in the course of their business career in this town, but no one ever questioned their integrity, and their memory is cherished for their enterprise, public spirit, and the stimulus which they gave to the business of the place.

Mr. Tanner, after buying out the machine business of Messrs. Beach & Royce, continued it alone till 1848, when he took in Mr. Timothy D. Perkins as partner, and for 14 years the business was conducted by the firm of Tanner & Perkins, both of these gentlemen being skillful and industrious mechanics. Since 1862, Mr. Tanner has been sole owner of the machine shop and the foundry connected with it. During the war the demand for machinery greatly increased, and prices were remunerative. Of late years his son, James A. Tanner, has taken an active part in the management of the business, and the shop has an enviable reputation for turning out the best of paper machinery, for the manufacture of which it is now mostly devoted. The product of some years has amounted to \$140,000, and averages over \$100,000.

In 1847, Messrs. E. A. Royce and the brothers Charles A. and John McLaughlin, bought of Capt. Zacheus Winegar a good water privilege on the outlet of Lakes May and Green-Water, with the grist-mill and saw-mill attached, and in a part of the grist-mill building commenced the manufacture of machinery under the firm name of E. A. Royce & Co., at the same time continuing the business

of grinding grain and sawing lumber. The McLaughlin's afterwards bought out Mr. Royce, and finally the whole business fell into the hands of John McLaughlin, who discontinued the grist-mill and enlarged his machine shop. In 1863, he built a foundry on the site of the old Winegar house, remarkable for being the oldest house in town, which he removed and fitted up as a store-house for patterns. We are happy to add that Mr. McLaughlin intends to keep the old house in good repair as a relic of the past. This machine shop employs ten men, and turns out machinery valued on the average of years at \$50,000. The production of his saw-mill annually, is nearly half a million feet of lumber. John McLaughlin is one of the adopted citizens of Lee, having been born in Ireland in 1818. He came to this country at the age of 18, and not liking New York had engaged his passage back to Ireland, but was finally persuaded by his brother to visit Lee, which he liked so well that he went to work in the machine shop of Beach & Royce. By his industry, skill and energy, he rose step by step, till he became proprietor of a saw-mill, machine shop and foundry.

#### PAPER MANUFACTORIES.

The leading business of the town is the manufacture of paper, other industries, as has been noticed, being swallowed in this. Under the old system of manufacturing paper by hand, the rags, after being well washed, were left in tubs for a number of days so as to be made more tender. They were then pounded until the fibrous matter became a pulp fine enough to spread evenly on the wire sieve which was used to dip it up sheet by sheet. It took 20 mortars to reduce 100 pounds of rags in one day. In other words, hand labor would accomplish only one-eighth of what machinery can do. The engine with its revolving cylinder, fitted with plates of steel, will now convert



250 or 300 pounds of rags into pulp in about six hours. The Fourdrinier machine with the endless vibratory wire gauze, was invented in 1798 by Louis Robert, of Essonne, France, but improved by the Frenchman whose name it bears. It was first manufactured in this country about 1830, by Messrs. Phelps and Spofford of Windham, Conn. With the introduction of this machine began the rapid development of this branch of industry. What once took three months to accomplish, could with machinery be done in one day. Other improvements followed, such as the use of chlorine in bleaching colored rags, steam to scour them, calender rolls to give the smooth surface required for steel pens, the cylinder machine patented by John Ames of Springfield, in 1822, the use of various fibrous materials, etc.

#### SAMUEL CHURCH.

In 1806, Samuel Church removed from East Hartford, Conn., to this town, and immediately commenced the erection of a paper mill at South Lee, where the Hurlbut Company's mills now stand. This was the first paper mill built in the town, and among the first built in the county. It was afterwards owned by Messrs. Brown & Curtis. The work was all done by hand. The second mill was built 1819, by Luman Church, on the site of the old Forest mill, now owned by Hon. Harrison Garfield. In 1808, by the strong solicitation of gentlemen living in this part of the town, and the offer of liberal assistance in the erection of the building, Samuel Church was induced to set up a paper mill near the spot where the Smith Paper Co.'s Eagle Mill now stands. The paper business of the town grew with amazing rapidity. In 1857, two years before the first mill was built at Holyoke, now the leading town in paper manufacturing, there were 25 mills in Lee, with an annual production of \$2,000,000.

This was the culminating point in the history of the paper business in Lee, so far as the number of mills indicate its extent and importance.

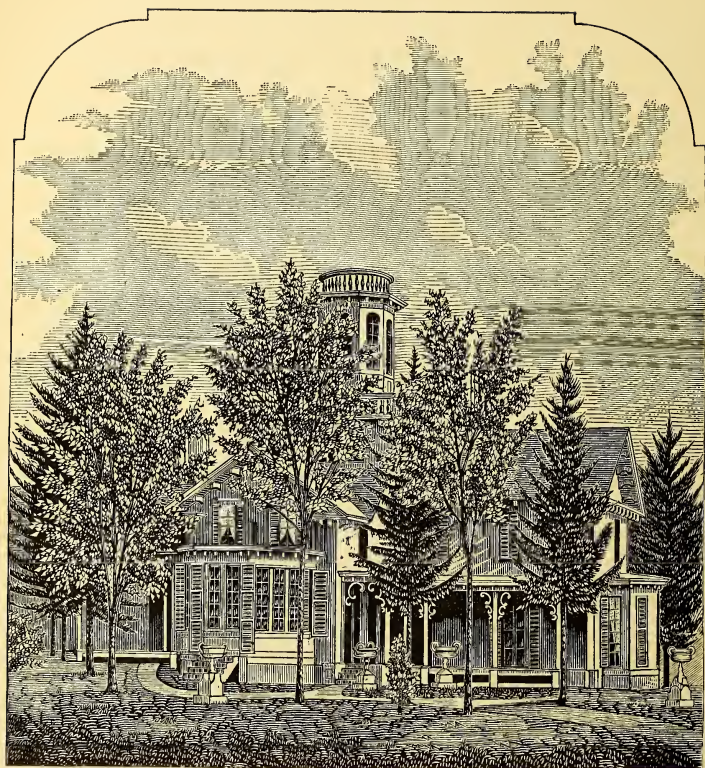
W. W. & C. LAFLIN.

In the Summer of 1826, Messrs. Walter, Winthrop and Cutler Laflin built, where now stands the Smith Paper Co.'s Housatonic Mill, a paper mill which was regarded at that time as a marvel of enterprise. The race-way, 140 rods above and 30 rods below the mill, was excavated in eight months' time. In 1850, when the property passed into the hands of Platner & Smith, the race-way was extended further down the river, below the bridge. Previous to this time the water, in freshets, worked its own way across the road. The main building was 100 feet by 35, with wings 50 by 24, and 30 by 30. Its four machines worked up 600 to 1,000 pounds of rags daily.

In connection with this mill, another was built three-quarters of a mile up the river, at Crow Hollow, with a daily production of 24 to 60 reams of printing paper. This mill, burned some years after but rebuilt by the Laflins, is now known as the Columbia Mill. Mr. Winthrop Laflin was a personal friend of Horace Greeley. Calling upon him as he was busy at the press, Mr. Greeley expressed his desire to issue a daily paper if he could procure the paper on three months' credit. Mr. Laflin offered to furnish it, and thus began the publication of the *New York Daily Tribune*.

The Laflins also engaged in the manufacture of paper bonnets, made to resemble Leghorn straw by passing the paper through a series of rollers. The business was commenced by Stephen Thatcher, but the Laflins were the first to introduce them into market on a large scale. Their shipments to the New York house of Arthur Tappan, alone, amounted to 50 dozen per day. But there





RESIDENCE OF ELIZUR SMITH.



was so much money in the business that others rushed into the manufacture of these Navarino bonnets, and the market was quickly glutted. The Laffins sold out their business in Lee in '37, and Cutler Laffin went to New Orleans as head of the wholesale house of Laffin, Stevens & Co.

#### WHYTE & HULBERT.

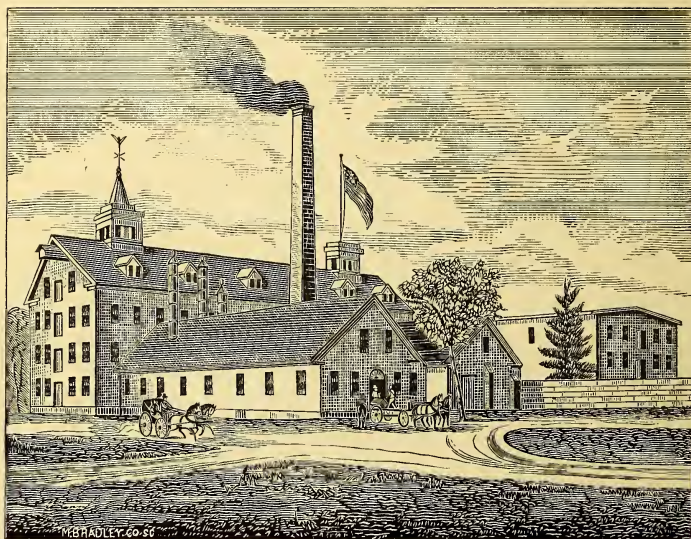
Mr. Samuel A. Hulbert, born at Wethersfield, Ct., November 6, 1796, at the age of 17 went to Salisbury, Ct., to learn blacksmithing. He commenced business at Great Barrington, but continued there only a short time. In March, 1820, he started in Lee, with his brother Amos, a carriage manufactory, and built up a large business. The Stockbridge and Pittsfield Railroad, a continuation through Lee of the Housatonic Railroad, running over the site of the carriage factory, necessitated the removal of the shops, and he gave up the carriage business. With Alexander Whyte, a practical paper-maker, he bought the Columbia Mill. But in 1857, the firm succumbed to the financial pressure. Mr. Hulbert's sight and hearing had failed, and he did not again enter into active business. He continued to reside in Lee and died here, 1875, January 16, honored and respected for his uncompromising integrity and his marked energy. His son Charles died soon after (January 25), born in Lee, March 20, 1824, from 1842 to 1851 a partner in the well-known dry goods firm of Plunkett & Hulbert of Pittsfield, and afterwards a member of the firm of James M. Beebe & Co. of Boston. Mr. Whyte, after the failure of the company, engaged in the manufacture of paper at Richmond, Va., and died at New York in 1873.

#### THE SMITH PAPER COMPANY.

Mr. Elizur Smith was born in Sandisfield, 1812, January 5. When he was 16 years old he cut his foot, and

was confined to the house for months. The books he read and studied made him desirous of further knowledge, and he went to Westfield Academy to pursue his studies. In 1830, he came to Lee as clerk for John Nye & Co., at a salary of \$20 a year and his board. In 1834 he bought half an interest of Ingersoll & Platner in their Turkey Mill in Tyringham. The other partners carried on the manufacture of paper at the *Ætna* Mill in the village, located just across the stream from the present Eagle Mill; Mr. Smith took charge of the Turkey Mill. In 1835 he bought out Mr. Ingersoll's interest, and thus began the partnership of Platner & Smith, for over thirty years identified with the paper manufacture of Lee. At first they made only fine papers, and for years they had the honor of being the greatest paper-makers in the country. The crisis of 1837 was safely weathered by the new firm, which soon afterwards bought of J. & L. Church the Union Mill, and of Luman Church the Enterprise now known as the Eagle Mill. At this time the only remaining mill privilege in the "Huddle," as the north end of the village was then called, was a turning-shop for wood-work. This the firm also bought, and on its site built a woolen mill, which however was profitable only in exceptional years. In 1850, they bought the Housatonic Mill, originally built by Laffin & Loomis, and enlarged it. They bought also Ball & Bassett's satinet factory and clothier's shop on the outlet of Laurel Lake, and converted these into the Castle and Laurel Paper Mills. In connection with his brother, Mr. Platner built a large mill in Ancram, N. Y., and Mr. Smith with his brother, J. R. Smith, bought in Russell a paper mill in connection with Cyrus W. Field. These outside ventures did not prove specially successful, and were given up. In May, 1855, Mr. Platner died. Mr. Smith kept on with the business under the old firm name. The war stimulated





COLUMBIA MILL OF SMITH PAPER CO.



production and brought great prosperity. In 1864, Mr. Smith took in his two nephews, Wellington and Dewitt S. Smith, as partners, and organized the Smith Paper Company, which is now the leading manufacturing company of the town. The capital originally was \$220,000, and is now \$250,000. The stock is wholly owned by the Smiths. The four mills in which they have concentrated their paper machinery, are the Housatonic, at the south end of the village, originally built by the Laffins; the Eagle, which includes the old Union mill of J. & L. Church, and occupies all the water power at the north end of the village; the Columbia, half a mile further up the Housatonic River; and the Pleasant Valley Mill, still further up and near the Lenox boundary, originally built by Thomas Sedgwick & Co. The capacity of the Eagle and Pleasant Valley Mills is 9,000 lbs. of paper each per day, while the Housatonic turns out 10,500 lbs., and the Columbia 12,500. The Eagle is devoted almost exclusively to the production of manila paper, while the other three mills produce news and book papers. The most approved machinery is used by the Smith Paper Company, and their business is conducted with such system and energy as must command success. Steam is used in all their mills to drive a part of the machinery, and in case of a failure in the water-power, the boilers and engines are of sufficient capacity to keep up the average production. The wheels of these mills do not stop, night or day, except on Sunday and for repairs.

In 1875 this company bought the factory formerly used by the Lenox Plate Glass Company for polishing glass, and converted it into a mill for the manufacture of wood pulp, a fibrous material made by grinding up the American poplar, and extensively used in combination with rags for the production of printing papers. The capacity of this pulp mill is 2,000 lbs. per day.

In connection with their paper mills, the Smith Paper Company also run a first-class machine shop, in which their repairing is done and much of their machinery is made. The number of hands employed by the company in the several departments of their business is over 300, who are paid regularly at the end of each month, and the monthly pay-roll is \$10,000.

For a few years past, Mr. Elizur Smith, the founder of the company, has left the management of the mills to his nephews, Wellington and Dewitt, and has given most of his time to the conduct of his large farm. This is located on the table-land just west of Laurel Lake, of which beautiful sheet of water it commands fine views. In the management of his landed estate Mr. Smith has exhibited the same enterprise and system so characteristic of his manufacturing. Improved machinery, thorough-bred stock and great crops attest his energy in agriculture. Much of his land was naturally wet, and this he has thoroughly under-drained, putting in over forty miles of drain tile. The stones have been removed and placed in walls, the "hard hacks" and other weeds been eradicated, and fertilizers have been liberally applied, till his farm of nearly 600 acres is one of the most productive in the state. In the meantime the mills, under the conduct of the young men, have been rendered more productive than ever before. The present product of paper is about twenty tons per day.

#### HURLBUT PAPER COMPANY.

In 1822, Messrs. Charles M. Owen and Thomas Hurlbut came to South Lee and began the manufacture of paper. They employed four men and six women, and made ten reams of letter paper a day. The sheets, made by hand, were left in a rough state, edges untrimmed and quires unstamped. The best qualities were hot-pressed, that is

partially smoothed by being pressed between hot iron plates. The reputation of the firm for producing a uniformly excellent article of paper was such that the well-known water-mark of O. & H. was a guarantee of the quality. Their business integrity and high standard of workmanship gave a reputation to the town. They spared no expense to secure any valuable improvements. As their means increased they extended their business, purchasing of Messrs. Brown and Curtis, Church's Mill; then of Mr. Billings Brown his grist mill, which they converted into a paper mill. They also purchased the Forge on the opposite side of the river, so as to control the whole water privilege, and on the site of the Forge erected a flouring mill. The mill farther down the river, at Housatonic, was also built by the firm. In 1856, the old firm was dissolved, Mr. Hurlbut retaining the property at South Lee, and Mr. Owen the mill at Housatonic. Both these gentlemen were born in 1794, Mr. Hurlbut in Wethersfield, Conn., and Mr. Owen in Windsor, Conn. Mr. Hurlbut had been part owner of a paper mill in Suffield, Conn. Mr. Owen's business experience had been acquired in a country store. On dissolving partnership, each member of the firm associated a son with him in the business, which was conducted at Housatonic under the name of the Owen Paper Company, and at South Lee by the Hurlbut Paper Company.

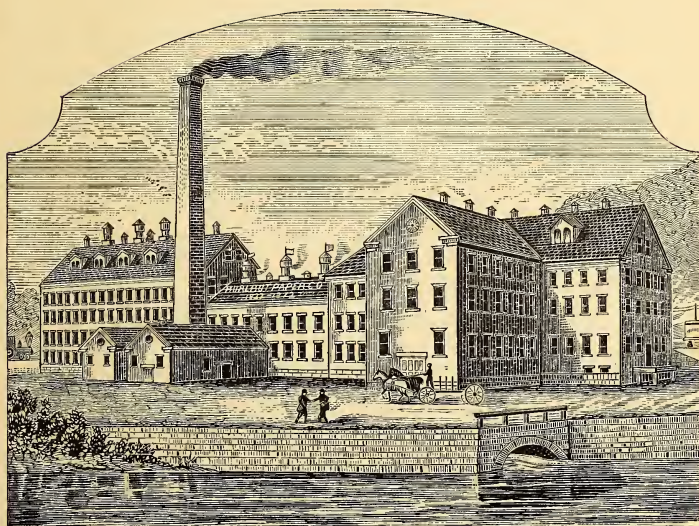
Messrs. Owen and Hurlbut were no common men. Their business capacity was of the highest order. Combining prudence, enterprise and strict integrity, the course of the firm was steadily onward and upward. They passed through the commercial storms of 1837 and 1857 without even the shadow of a cloud resting upon their credit. Mr. Hurlbut was a retiring man, finding his happiness in his business and family, and caring little for honors and offices. Mr. Owen was more ambitious, and early

acquired the title of Major in the military service, and represented the town in both branches of the Legislature, and was also a member of the Governor's Council. Mr. Hurlbut died at his home in South Lee in 1861, beloved and lamented by all, leaving a widow, two sons and three daughters, by whom the stock of the Hurlbut Paper Company is mostly owned. The sons inherit the talent of their father, and under their management the business of the company has prospered and greatly increased. In 1872, they built one of the best paper mills in the state, on the site of the old South Lee Forge. This mill is of brick, with a stone basement, is three hundred and seventy-three feet long, fifty feet wide, and including the basement, and attic, four stories high; having a capacity for making 8,000 lbs. of fine paper per day. The whole product of the Hurlbut Paper Company per day is 10,000 lbs., all of fine quality. Mr. Owen died at Stockbridge in 1870, no children surviving him. The business of the Owen Paper Company is conducted by Mr. Henry D. Cone, who married the widow of Edward H., son of Major Owen.

#### HARRISON GARFIELD AND BENTON BROTHERS.

Mr. Garfield, who is a native of Lee, born in 1810, and is now the oldest manufacturer of writing paper in the country in active business, began manufacturing in partnership with Caleb Benton, operating the old Forest Mill. Previously, he had been three years in the meat business with Capt. T. E. M. Bradley. The Forest Mill, which was built in 1819 by Luman Church for the manufacture of fine writing paper, was the third mill built in town, and the first built on the Lake May outlet. Mr. Church not succeeding in the business, the mill was run for several years by Joseph and Leonard Church, and afterward by James Whiting & Son, who sold to Jared Ingersoll and Caleb Benton. Mr. Ingersoll sold his interest to his





PAPER MILL OF HURLBUT PAPER CO.



partner in 1835, and the firm of Benton and Garfield was formed the following year. For nearly a third of a century, these two veteran paper-makers worked together in harmony, building up a large and flourishing business. In 1846, they built the Mountain Mill, which they operated 7 or 8 years, and then sold to P. C. Baird. In '49, they bought the Forest Grove Mill, built in 1836, but idle till '40, when Mr. Joseph B. Allen began making coarse papers. In '54 they built the Greenwood Mill. The Forest Mill was burned in '52, but immediately rebuilt. After the death of Mr. Benton in 1866, the business was divided, Mr. Benton's sons, Charles G. and James F. Benton, under the firm name of Benton Brothers, taking the Greenwood Mill, and Mr. Garfield retaining the Forest and the Forest Grove Mills. Benton Brothers have one of the best mills in the country, having an overshot wheel with 30 feet fall. Only fine paper is made at these mills. Mr. Garfield, besides caring for his paper mills, is president of the National and Savings banks, carries on a store, is largely engaged in agriculture, has one of the finest private greenhouses and graperies in the county, is President of the Lee Library Association, and is ever ready to give personal and pecuniary aid to all deserving public and charitable enterprises. He has served the town faithfully as a Selectman, and represented her in both houses of the Legislature.

#### THE NEW ENGLAND MILL—CHAFFEE AND HAMBLIN.

This mill was originally built by Church and Brown in 1829, and under the name of Waverly Mill was bought of Mr. Charles Ballard in 1855, by Messrs. Chaffee and Hamblin. Mr. Prentiss Chaffee was born in Becket in 1809, and was a farmer there till, in connection with his nephew, Mr. W. H. Hamblin, a native of Lee, born in 1832, he commenced this new business, of which neither

himself nor his partner had till then any practical knowledge. The water privilege is one of the best in Water street, having sixteen feet fall, and the united streams from Lake May and Greenwater Pond for supply. An overshot wheel drives three rag engines, converting 1,600 pounds of rags daily into pulp. The number of hands employed is 24, and the daily production 1,000 pounds flat cap paper, used mainly for blank and writing books. Payson, Dunton & Scribner's writing books are made of this paper. Messrs. Chaffee & Hamblin have built up an enviable reputation for the manufacture of their peculiar paper, and their success in business attests their industry, integrity and talent.

#### E. & S. MAY AND S. S. ROGERS

The Messrs. May are natives of Putney, Vt. The senior partner, E. S. May, born in 1809, commenced his business life as a woolen manufacturer in 1833, at Walpole, N. H., removed his business to Granby Mass., in 1835, began the manufacture of paper in Lee in 1840. His brother, S. S. May, younger by four years, served a regular apprenticeship in paper manufacture, and came to Lee in 1834 as foreman of the Columbia Mill, owned at that time by W., W. & C. Laffin. In 1837, in connection with Jared Ingersoll, he bought an interest in a small paper mill, the first one built on the Lake May stream. In 1839, the mill was burned, and Mr. E. S. May bought out Mr. Ingersoll's interest the following year, when the mill was rebuilt. Lake May reservoir could originally be drawn down only 18 inches, and was used solely for driving a saw-mill at its outlet. But the Messrs. May, in connection with other manufacturers, have raised the dam at the outlet so that 13 feet of water can now be drawn, the reservoir being a mile and a half long and three-quarters of a mile wide. In 1845, the May Brothers built the



Middle Mill, on a site above their original mill. Straw wrapping paper was the manufacture of both mills till competition reduced the profits, when, in 1848, the Mays introduced the first Fourdrinier machine ever set up in Berkshire county for the manufacture of fine paper. In 1853, the Mahaiwe mill was built, and the succeeding year Mr. S. S. Rogers became a partner, the firm name being May & Rogers. Mr. Rogers is a native of New Marlboro, born in 1823, and for the first years of his business life was a merchant. In the division of labor in the new firm, Mr. Rogers had charge of marketing the production, while the Mays attended to the manufacturing department. The average daily consumption of rags varies from 3,600 to 4,000 pounds. The production of the three mills is 2,500 pounds fine writing paper, largely used in the Government offices at Washington. Their wash water, so essential in the production of fine paper, is of excellent quality, from a famous spring on the old Chanter place, to secure which, they bought the whole farm of 180 acres. The firm of May & Rogers was dissolved in 1877, the May brothers taking the two lower mills and Mr. Rogers the Mahaiwe. Both of the new firms are assisted in their business by their sons. The Messrs. May have given much time to the public, both having served faithfully as Selectmen and legislators, and Mr. E. S. May as County Commissioner. Mr. Rogers was also honored with the Presidency of the Lee and Hudson Railroad.

P. C. BAIRD.

Mr. Baird is the oldest son of the late Kendall Baird, Esq., of Becket. He came to Lee in '53 with his cousin, J. C. Chaffee, who was a jeweler, and through their energy and enterprise built up a large business. In '54 he sold out to Mr. Chaffee, and bought of Benton & Garfield the upper Forest Mill. In '59, he bought of the estate of

Couch & Clark the Congress Mill built by Bradford M. Couch in 1852. In '61 the Forest Mill was burned and never rebuilt. In '63 he bought of Linn & Smith the National Mill, and of Mr. Orton Heath the Greenwater Mill. Mr. Baird makes collar paper; can manufacture about 3,500 pounds daily, and sells mostly in Boston and New York. In '64, he began the manufacture of paper collars. In all his enterprises his energy and perseverance have conquered a success. He has represented the town in both branches of the Legislature.

BLAUVELT & GILLMOR.—JAMES GILLMOR.

Blauvelt & Gillmor came to Lee in '64, to manufacture twine from manila paper, occupying the mill farthest East on Lake May brook, which was formerly owned by Eldridge & Northrup. During the war, when all cotton products were very high, the twine made from manila paper proved an excellent substitute for cotton. The value of the manufactured article has since fallen from 60 cents to 20 cents per pound. In '68, the twine factory was removed to Lee from Paterson. In '72, October 25, the mill was burned, and Mr. Blauvelt returned to Paterson. Mr. Gillmor rebuilt the mill, but it was burned again 1877, March 1. Not discouraged, Mr. Gillmor rebuilt in the Summer of 1877, and his mill is now in successful operation.

In concluding this account of the leading industry of Lee, it is due to the paper manufacturers to say, that they have all stood the panic pressure of the last four years with great firmness. None have failed, and the business probably never rested on a surer foundation than it does to-day. Imports from competing manufacturers in England, France and Germany, have nearly ceased, and a hopeful effort is now being made to supply these and other foreign countries with many lines of American paper.

## SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES.

## RAG-ENGINES.

IN connection with the paper business, other industries, aside from the machine shops already mentioned, have sprung up that deserve notice. One of the first wants of a paper mill is knives or rather bars, by which, fastened into wooden cylinders, the rags are torn into pulp without injuring the fibre. Each cylinder of a rag-engine requires from forty to ninety of these bars, which are made of one-fifth steel and four-fifths iron. Soon after the manufacture of paper was started in this town, Mr. Cornelius Barlow, a blacksmith, commenced making these rag knives, as they were called, first at his shop which was located in the north-east part of the town near what is now called the Tuttle Bridge. This shop burning down, and the forging of these knives demanding more than muscular power, he bought a water privilege at East Lee, and began forging them by water-power. Mr. Barlow's health failing, he sold out his shop to Henry Murray, who took in John Dowd as a partner in 1847, and the business was conducted for six years by the firm of Murray & Dowd. In 1853, Mr. R. J. Dowd, a brother of John, bought out Mr. Murray's interest, and the firm of J. & R. J. Dowd was constituted. These gentlemen were natives of Sandisfield. Both learned their trade of Mr. Murray and by diligence and skill built up such a reputation that their work was sought for from all parts of the country. Their orders varied from year to year, as the paper business ebbed and flowed, some years amounting to \$20,000, and others to only half this sum. In the Spring of 1877, Mr. John Dowd bought out his brother's interest, and is now assisted by his son, Mr. R. J. Dowd removing to Beloit, Wisconsin, where he has established a similar manufactory.

## WATER-WHEELS.

A very necessary adjunct of a paper mill run by water, is a water-wheel. Mr. E. D. Jones, a wheelwright, commenced the manufacture of turbine and other wheels at East Lee in 1856. Mr. Jones was master of his business, and established an enviable reputation and a snug fortune in manufacturing wheels and building paper mills. He took large contracts not only in this but in neighboring towns, and desiring a more central location, removed to Pittsfield in 1866, selling out his establishment at East Lee to Henry Couch and Freeland Oakley, who learned their trade of him. Messrs. Couch and Oakley have continued the business successfully and are turning out work from their establishment to the amount of about \$12,000 per annum.

## THE MARBLE BUSINESS.

From the early settlement of the town it was known that extensive beds of limestone cropped out in the western half of the town, being a continuation of the lime-rock of Vermont that extends through Berkshire County into Connecticut. Most of the limestone of Lee is dolomite, a compound of the carbonate of lime and magnesia, but much of it has a fine white grain, and can be cut to a sharp edge and polished highly. The farmers on whose land this rock cropped out regarded it as a nuisance, little thinking that one day it would prove a source of great wealth to the town. The marble of West Stockbridge was quarried and sent to market in the latter part of the eighteenth century, but that of Lee was considered so remote from tide-water that the transportation would be too expensive to allow of its being marketed with profit. On the farm of David Ingersoll, where now is the quarry of Mr. Warren P. Wilde, the stone lay in strata near the surface, and these Mr. Ingersoll got out

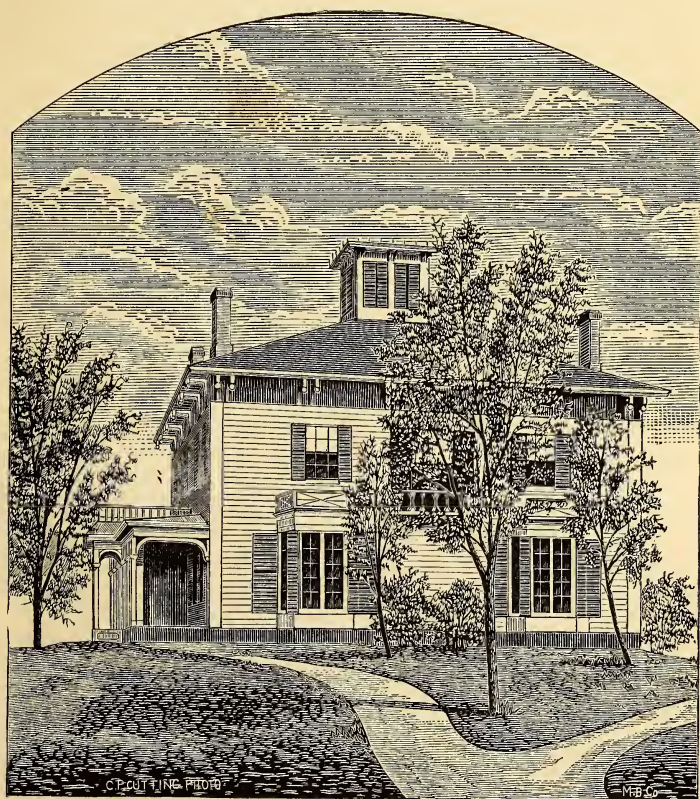


in considerable quantity, but mainly for hearth and step stones. The older inhabitants remember the two large and beautiful specimens of marble from this quarry which Mr. Ingersoll got out for the horse-blocks of the church built in 1800. Many of the step-stones of the present residences of the town were quarried by Mr. Ingersoll in the olden time, and are fine specimens of marble.

But it was not till the Housatonic railroad opened an avenue to market that the Lee marble gained a notoriety. It was about this time that Congress determined upon an enlargement of the Capitol at Washington and a commission was appointed to examine the marbles of the country and decide which was best for building purposes. The Lee marble was found to stand a much greater pressure than any other, and also to be quite free from iron and other impurities. Mr. Charles Heebner, an importer and dealer in marble at Philadelphia, was active in bringing the Lee marble to the attention of the commission, and in 1852 purchased the farm of William L. Culver, near the village of Lee, made a contract with the Government for furnishing half a million cubic feet for the Capitol enlargement, and in connection with his partners, Messrs. Rice and Baird, opened what has since been known as the Heebner quarry, building a branch railroad from the Housatonic into it, so that the marble could be hoisted from the quarry directly upon the cars. Mr. Heebner was the manager of the quarry and was a man of great energy, strong will and good judgment. The enterprise was a success. Twelve years were allowed in the contract for the delivery of the marble at Washington, and during these years, Mr. Heebner employed about a hundred men. He also purchased, in connection with some parties in New York, a section of the farm of Mr. C. K. Lanphier and the whole of the Van Deusen farm, and opened what has been called the New York quarry.

Mr. Heebner lived to fulfill his contract with the Government and at its expiration in 1865, he had delivered at Washington 491,570 cubic feet of marble, receiving therefor \$865,043, besides furnishing stone for sundry smaller buildings in New York and Philadelphia. The business brought much money into town and was a great help to the Housatonic road, down which the marble was transported to Bridgeport, and thence shipped to Washington. Mr. Heebner died at Philadelphia in 1867, but the Heebner and New York quarries were soon purchased of his estate by Mr. Frank S. Gross, a nephew who had been trained to the business by his uncle, and who still continues to work them. Mr. Gross has introduced all the modern improvements for quarrying, using eight channeling machines driven by steam, each of which does the work of twenty men. He also runs a steam diamond-drill for horizontal drilling, that bores a hole into a rock faster than an auger penetrates wood. In the ten years during which Mr. Gross has had possession of the quarries, he has shipped between six and seven hundred thousand cubic feet of marble, part of which went to Boston and New York, but most of it to Philadelphia, where it has been used for the enlargement of Girard College and more especially for the erection of the City Hall, a magnificent structure which will require years for its completion.

In 1871, Mr. Warren P. Wilde, who had been working the quarries of Pleasantville, N. Y., and had a large contract for furnishing marble for the Catholic Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, New York, purchased the quarry originally opened by David Ingersoll, and immediately commenced shipping marble. This quarry works with great ease as the stone are so stratified, but the marble is not of the finest quality, nor does it furnish such magnificent blocks as are quarried by Mr. Gross. Mr. Wilde uses no steam power but employs a dozen men and ships about 30,000



RESIDENCE OF F. S. GROSS.

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cubic feet annually. There is no limit to the supply of marble which this town can furnish, and the marble improves in color and quality the deeper the quarries are worked.

#### THE LUMBER BUSINESS.

Lumber, which in the early history of the town was one of the chief articles of export, was pretty much exhausted in the first half of the present century, the forests being cut off not only for this purpose, but for making charcoal, and more especially for furnishing firewood, the paper mills using up large quantities for generating steam. The neighboring towns, Washington, Becket, Otis and Tyringham, supplied the demand here for common lumber, but for nice work resort was had to Albany; no regular lumber yard being established here till 1850, when one was opened by Mr. George F. Bradley. The business was conducted on a small scale at first, but gradually increased and proved a great convenience to the town and the foundation of a small fortune to the proprietor. Mr. Bradley's health failing, he sold out his business in 1869 to Luther Ball, a grandson of Nathan Ball, one of the original settlers of the town, and his brother-in-law, William H. Baldwin. The new firm of Ball & Baldwin sold, the first year, \$15,000 worth of lumber, and the business has steadily increased, amounting in one year to \$50,000, and in these dull times for building averaging \$30,000 at retail and \$8,000 by carload. Most of their nice lumber is brought directly from the saw-mills in Michigan and Canada. They keep on hand a stock varying from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in value. Much lumber is still brought to Lee from the neighboring towns.

#### THE COAL BUSINESS.

Coal was an article seldom seen in Lee in the first half of this century. With the building of the Housatonic

railroad in 1850 came increased facilities for obtaining this most condensed form of fuel, and it has gradually supplanted wood both in mills and private dwellings. Even farmers, owners of wood lots, find it cheaper to burn coal than to haul, cut and store wood. The first dealers in coal were John Ingersoll and William T. Fish. The first regular coal yard in town was started by Messrs. Benjamin Hull and David Dresser, under the firm name of Hull & Dresser, in 1859. The business at first was small; the sales, the first year, amounting to only 200 tons, which were mainly used in private dwellings. The paper mills soon substituted coal for wood in generating steam, but the proprietors mostly bought directly from the shippers by wholesale. Mr. Hull dying in 1863, was succeeded in the coal business by Messrs. Platt & Barnes of West Stockbridge, and the firm name was changed to Dresser & Co., and in this name the business is still conducted, though Mr. Dresser and P. M. Shaylor now constitute the company. The retail trade in coal of this firm averages 1,500 tons annually. In 1872, Messrs. F. W. Gibbs and A. M. Holmes started another coal yard here which is still continued under the name of Perry, Hull & Co. The sales of this yard also average about 1,500 tons. The whole amount of coal consumed in this town annually is estimated at 12,000 tons, and the consumption continues to increase.

#### THE MEAT BUSINESS.

So long as Lee was a substantially agricultural town, there was no meat market here nor even a slaughterhouse. The farmers fattened and slaughtered their own meat, furnishing the mechanics "by the quarter," mainly in the way of barter, and keeping up a supply of "fresh" among themselves by exchange with their neighbors. In the summer, a calf or sheep was slaughtered occasionally,

but the main reliance for meat at this season of the year was on the beef and pork barrels, and "potluck" was the staple dish for dinner. Much beef and pork found a market at Hudson, and some was carried to Boston. The price of meat was low in those days, beef selling for five and six cents a pound by the quarter, and pork for four and five. Nathaniel Bassett, the blacksmith of the village, did the "butchering" as it was called, for his neighbors, and took his pay in a piece of meat, which he sometimes sold. He was a very conscientious man, and when meat began to appreciate he hardly dared to ask the market price. Offering a nice cutlet of veal to Dr. Hyde, he was asked the price. His reply was, "They say veal is selling for six cents, but, good George!" a favorite exclamation which he had learned in the days of George the Third, "veal was never worth so much, and you may have it for five cents." In 1830, Capt. Thomas E. M. Bradley started a slaughter-house at the upper end of the village, and commenced running a meat cart from house to house. The first regular meat market was established in 1852 by Messrs. Dyke and Babcock, who were bought out by Messrs. James Bullard and C. E. Hinckley in 1857. Another was started by Robert B. Cheney in 1862, and these two firms still continue the business. Their average sales for the past few years have been \$30,000 each. In war times they amounted to \$50,000. Much beef and pork are brought to these markets from neighboring towns, and in the Summer most of the beef is purchased in Albany.

#### THE MERCHANTS OF LEE.

The name of the Lee merchants is legion, for there have been many, and it is exceedingly difficult to trace them through their many changes. Nathan Dillingham was the first who, soon after the incorporation of the

town, opened a small store in one of the rooms of his hotel, the Red Lion, located on the lot which is now the residence of Abiel H. Pease. Teas, spices, liquors, and a few dry goods constituted the bulk of his goods, and the trade was mostly by barter. The business increasing, he erected a building purposely for trade and took in Cornelius T. Fessenden as a partner. The firm of Dillingham & Fessenden seem to have had a monopoly of the mercantile business here till nearly the close of the last century, when John Howk, in connection with a Mr. Hall, opened a store in a double log house formerly occupied by his father, Richard Van Huyck, as the name was originally spelled, and located west of the residence of the late Albert M. Howk. About the same time, Mr. Ebenezer Jenkins, a well-to-do farmer living a mile east of Mr. J. B. Freeman on what has been known of late years as the Harteau place, becoming satisfied that the business of the town would center around the church, sold out his farm and built a house and store on the south side of the park, on the site now occupied by Dewitt S. Smith.

Major Dillingham continued in trade till the war of 1812, and may be called the patriarch of Lee merchants. He brought up a large family of children, most of whom made their mark in the world. Two sons were educated at Williams College, one of whom became a distinguished lawyer and the other a prominent educator. Two inherited their father's taste for trade and became merchants, one at Hartford, Conn., and the other at Columbus, Ga. Two daughters were deaf and dumb, and these were educated at the Hartford Asylum, one afterwards assisting her father as clerk, and the other becoming an assistant matron at the Asylum.

The war of 1812 brought with it changes in the mercantile and other business of the town. Thomas C. Durrant succeeded Messrs. Dillingham & Fessenden, and



Messrs. Elisha Foote and Ransom Hinman opened a store in connection with their duck factory. This was located on the site of the store now occupied by William Taylor. John B. Perry, son of Rev. David Perry, of Richmond, Mass., also bought out Mr. Jenkins, and continued in trade here till his death in 1843, in the meantime erecting a new store on the west of his house, and selling the old Jenkins building which stood on the east side, and was converted into the rear part of the residence of the late Joseph Bassett. Mr. Perry was one of the most permanent and successful of the Lee merchants. His business was never large, but was conducted so prudently that he escaped the wrecks which so many of his contemporaries suffered.

Oliver Ives succeeded Foote & Hinman in 1817, and was in turn succeeded by J. & L. Church in 1820, by Church & Bassett in 1832, and by William Taylor, the present occupant and the most permanent and, on the whole, the most successful of the Lee merchants, in 1837.

In 1824, Messrs. Laffin, Loomis & Co., bought a part of the old duck factory building and moved it to where Chauncey T. Smith's tin shop now stands, and started a store of more pretensions than had been customary in Lee. This firm was succeeded by W., W. & C. Laffin in 1833, by John King in 1835, by Ranney & Boies in 1836, by Laffin & Mills in 1840, and by L. L. Mills & Co. in 1845.

The same year in which the Laffins commenced the mercantile business at the south end of the village, Messrs. John Nye, Jr. & Co., built a new store at the upper end on the site of the present block of Messrs. Sparks & Casey. This firm was composed of four partners, John Nye, Jr., Messrs. Ball & Bassett, Thomas Bassett and Isaac C. Ives, who were at this time running a paper mill, and started the store as an auxiliary to their other business.

Mr. Ives was the manager of the store, and the firm continued in trade till 1835, when it was succeeded by Ives, Sturges & Co. William T. Fish afterwards occupied this stand for a number of years, and was succeeded by Messrs. Hitchcock & Bradley, and in 1871 by Messrs. Sparks & Casey, the present merchants on this ground, who removed the old store of John Nye, Jr. & Co., and put up the commodious block which bears their name.

In 1833, Messrs. Benedict & Chamberlin came to Lee from Dalton and built the store now occupied by James W. Ferry at the corner of Center and Mill streets. This firm traded here only two years, and was succeeded by Henry Sabin & Co.; Messrs. S. & A. Hulbert being the company. A prosperous business was built up by this firm, and after a few years, Mr. Sabin bought out his partners and continued trading at the old stand with only a short interval, when the store was occupied by Messrs. Platner & Porter till 1852, when he sold out to Charles N. Couch, who soon after took in his brother-in-law Mr. Theron Reed, as partner. The firm of Couch & Reed was succeeded by Homer Hitchcock, and he in turn by the present enterprising merchant, James W. Ferry, who has enlarged and much improved the premises.

About the time of the erection of the store in which Mr. Sabin traded so long and successfully, Mr. Milton J. Ingersoll, a grandson of "Squire Ingersoll," built a store on the west side of Main street, which he conducted a few years in connection with the paper business. Mr. Ingersoll was succeeded by Austin D. Moore, who remained only a year or two, and was followed in 1837 by Messrs. Phelps & Hill, soon after by Phelps & Field, and in 1841 by Messrs. S. & N. Gibbs. Mr. S. Gibbs soon retired from the firm and was succeeded by Mr. John R. Smith in 1843, when the trade was continued in this store by the firm of Gibbs & Smith till 1851, when Mr. Gibbs was suc-

ceeded by Mr. S. S. Rogers. The latter soon going into the paper business with the Messrs. May, was followed by Edward Bosworth. The firm of Smith & Bosworth continued till the death of Mr. Smith, which occurred in 1860, when Mr. Bosworth traded alone at the old stand till 1869, and then he removed to Northrup's block at the south end of the village, taking in George H. Tanner as a partner in 1876. The firm of Bosworth & Tanner are now doing the largest mercantile business ever done in Lee, their sales amounting to \$110,000 annually.

In 1846, Mr. George H. Phelps built a block of stores and offices in connection with his tin shop, directly south of the store erected by Milton J. Ingersoll. In this block Messrs. Bostwick & Patterson commenced trading in 1847, and were followed in 1849 by Messrs. Rogers & Mills, the latter company dissolving in 1851, when Mr. Rogers formed a partnership with Mr. J. R. Smith, and the block has been mainly used since for clothing and millinery stores.

In 1849, Messrs. J. & L. Church erected a block of stores at the south end of the village, just north of the bank, which was occupied in part by Messrs. Taylor & Averill, Taylor & Eldridge, and Thomas P. Eldridge. The latter, one of the most enterprising of the Lee merchants, removed to New York city, there building up, in connection with George Bliss & Co., a large business. This block was burned in 1857, but was rebuilt the same year by J. M. Northrup, who put up the present substantial brick block in which Messrs. Bosworth & Tanner are doing a large business, occupying two stores, the one for groceries and the other for dry goods, buying out for this purpose the goods of A. G. Harding, who for a few years occupied one of them.

The "Exchange" block on the other side of the street was erected by Dr. Peabody in 1859, and was occupied

at first as a drug store and for a milliner's shop, but T. A. Oman, having purchased it, removed his dry goods and groceries here from East Lee, where he had been successfully trading for some years. Mr. Oman was succeeded in 1876 by Messrs. Albee & Sabin, and they by the present firm of Albee & Moore in 1877. Morey's and Baird's blocks, on the north of the Exchange, have never been occupied for general mercantile business, but for drugs, clothing, hardware, etc., as at present.

Besides the mercantile business done in the center of the town, more or less goods have been sold since early in the present century at East and South Lee. James Whiton opened a store in East Lee, in connection with his furnace, which was afterwards continued for many years by Wm. P. Hamblin. T. A. Oman also traded in East Lee for a number of years before his removal to the Center. Mr. Oman was succeeded by R. R. Harder, and he in turn by Wm. Avery the present occupant of the Oman store. Messrs. Benton & Garfield started a store in Water street at the same time, they commenced the paper business there which is still continued by Mr. Garfield. At South Lee, Messrs. Owen and Hurlbut ran a store for many years in connection with their paper business, but finally sold this branch of their business to J. T. Merrill & Co., and the store at the west end of the village is now conducted by Charles G. Merrill. At the east end Nathaniel Tremain early in the century opened a store in connection with his hotel. For several years, Leroy S. Kellogg has been the merchant in this part of the village.

It is evident from the above brief sketch of the Lee merchants, that the mercantile business here as every where, has been a changeable and precarious one. It probably never was on a better foundation than at present. In the early history of the town, it was the



custom of the citizens to go to Stockbridge to trade, as the merchants there were early established and kept a greater stock. The tide has turned; Lee is now the center of trade for most of the surrounding towns. The largest dry goods merchants are, Bosworth and Tanner, whose sales average \$110,000 a year, Sparks & Casey, \$50,000, William Taylor, \$30,000, James W. Ferry, \$30,000 and Albee & Moore, \$30,000. In all, it is estimated that the amount of goods now sold here annually, including the dry goods, groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, drugs, etc. must exceed half a million of dollars.

It is curious to notice the division of trade that has gradually grown up among the merchants. The first traders kept regular country stores, dealt in dry goods, groceries, drugs, jewelry, clothing, hardware, etc. Now there are besides the dry goods merchants, three regular druggists, two boot and shoe stores, three clothing stores, two jewelry establishments, two tin shops, one hardware merchant, two flour and feed stores, one tobacco dealer, one book and variety store, one dealer in ladies' fancy goods, and one fish and fruit market.

#### MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES.

Lee has ever been well supplied with good workmen in almost every department of mechanical industry. Ansel Bassett and John Crosby, were among the first carpenters and joiners, and built many of the early dwellings and barns. The farmers, however, in those days were skilled, to a greater or less extent, in mechanical trades, and did much of their work within themselves. The Ingersolls, the Howks, the Bradleys, the Balls and others had shops in which they kept a good supply of tools, and did their own common carpentering and cobbling, and sometimes made their own carts and wagons.

David Baker and Eli Bradley were the first shoe-

makers, keeping no shops expressly for the business, but going from house to house and working by the day, charging a dollar for a day's work of twelve hours.

Clothing both for men and women, was mostly made in the family, but sometimes a seamstress was employed to aid in this department, and her regular per diem was twenty-five cents. The first regular tailor was Simon Sterns, who early in the present century started a shop in the house first east of the Center school-house. He afterwards opened a shop in the village over the cabinet shop of Mr. Abner Taylor.

The first blacksmith was Nathaniel Bassett, whose shop stood on the north side of East Park street, about where High street now opens into Park. Mr. Bassett was born in Sandwich, Mass., in 1757, and came to Lee in company with his brother Cornelius in 1778. He lived at first in the rear part of what is now the residence of Mr. E. A. Moore, and afterwards built the two story front of this house. He did good service in the Revolutionary war for which he received a pension from his grateful country. He was a good mechanic, a useful citizen and an humble Christian. He died in 1846 at the ripe age of 88, leaving, among other monuments to his memory, some noble elms, a row of these trees having been set out by him on either side of Park street.

The first mason that settled in Lee, was Cornelius Bassett, who came here with his brother Nathaniel in the first year after the incorporation of the town. He built a one-story house on the ground on which now stands the residence of Mr. Wellington Smith; in fact the same timbers which Mr. Bassett used a hundred years since, are now the frame-work of the first story of Mr. Smith's house. That he was a good mason is manifest from the mortar still remaining, which he put on many of the old houses, and which is as hard as a stone. He was also a

good man, having a very humble opinion of himself, but true to his God, and faithful to his fellow men. In accordance with the custom of most, if not all, masons of his day, he took his bitters regularly at 11 o'clock A. M., and 4 o'clock P. M., but gave up the habit cheerfully when the temperance movement was started here in 1825. In his last sickness he was afflicted with running sores. He bore the affliction with great fortitude, affirming that it was in consequence of the rum he had imbibed. Showing his ulcerated limbs to his pastor, Dr. Hyde, he remarked, "there are my four o'clock's which for so many years heated my blood and are now boiling over."

The first cabinet-maker that settled in Lee was Abner Taylor, who came here in 1806, and by great industry and frugality, aided by a very energetic wife, brought up a family of eight children, giving them all a good education, and sending one, Dr. Edward Taylor, to college. Mr. Taylor's first residence was a little east of the village, where Mrs. Axander now lives, but in 1815 he bought the house formerly occupied by C. T. Fessenden on the corner of Main and East Park streets, which he afterwards moved back and erected the residence which constituted his home for the remainder of his life. Ready-made furniture was a thing unknown when Mr. Taylor settled in Lee. Everything, even to a coffin, was made upon order, and it may be added, was made to do service. Much cabinet work of Mr. Taylor's manufacture still remains to testify to his skill and thoroughness. Having so many children to educate, he took great interest in the public schools and especially in the establishment of the Lee Academy, and was abundantly rewarded by seeing his five sons all making their mark in the world, four as merchants and one as a clergyman. He was active in the shop, the church, and all public interests till a few days before his death which occurred in 1853, at the age of

69. In looking over Mr. Taylor's account books, one is astonished to find how cheap living and dying were in his day. His charges for coffins were from \$2.75 to \$9.00. The latter sum, the highest on the books, being charged for a cherry coffin with extra trimmings for Dr. Hyde.

The painter's and glazier's trade seems not to have been a distinct business here in the early days. Glazing was done by the carpenters and joiners. Many houses were left unpainted, a few were painted red or yellow, and the brush in these cases seems to have been used by the builders, or by some farmer's boy who had acquired some little skill by practice in handling it. Benjamin Fuller was the first who made painting a regular trade. He came to Lee about 1820 and continued the business till his death, and trained a number of others to aid and succeed him. Scarcely a red house remains in town. White succeeded red as the fashionable color, and now the various stone colors are the prevalent style.

The wheel-wright trade was early practiced in Lee, but the wheels made here by Josiah Spencer and others were more for house than factory purposes. Almost every family had its big and little wheel; the former for spinning wool and the latter for flax. These wheels were often made quite elaborately, and some of the flax wheels are now used for picture-frames. Water-wheels were also made here as wanted, and this branch of the business increased as the other diminished, as has been noticed in the history of the manufactures.

Stone-cutting was early introduced into Lee by the brothers, Thomas and William Sturgis, who carried on distinct shops, the former at East Lee, and the latter on the hill-road between East Lee and the Center. These two establishments supplied grave stones and other cut stone work for most of Southern Berkshire. Their monuments are to be found in almost every grave-yard in



this vicinity. These brothers originated, as did all the numerous Sturgis tribe of the country, from a good family on Cape Cod. Thomas' skill in stone-cutting descended to his son Edwin, who, though a septuagenarian, still carries on the business at the old shop established by his father early in the century.

For tin goods, Lee long depended upon the tin-peddlers who came around bartering their wares for rags, sheep-skins, old pewter, etc. The brothers, A. & E. Comstock, first started a regular tin shop in Lee in 1835, and were bought out in 1837 by Mr. George H. Phelps, who continued the business till his death, which occurred in 1875, succeeded by his son, Henry C., who had for some years been a partner with his father. Mr. Phelps, Sen., was also for a short time associated with Matthew D. Field in the paper business, and in 1862 was appointed Deputy United States Assessor. He was a man of clear head and positive convictions. He has left his monument in town in the form of a numerous and much respected family, most of whom are settled here.

The first harness-maker in the center of the town was George Stillman, who came from Wethersfield in 1825, but remained only a few years. Previous to this time the citizens went to the neighboring towns for their harnesses and saddles and repairs of the same. The tide has turned and Lee now supplies the vicinity with goods in this line, there being two harness shops at the Center and two at South Lee.

Jethro Thatcher was the first cooper. The Thatcher Genealogy states that he came to Lee soon after the marriage of his oldest daughter (1796), "to enjoy the pastoral ministrations of Rev. Dr. Hyde," being dissatisfied with the Unitarian influence which then prevailed in Barnstable, his former residence. He purchased a farm on the Williams' grant, being the one lately owned by

George Markham and now constituting a part of the plantation of Mr. Elizur Smith. In connection with his farm, he worked at his old trade of a cooper, and made pails, churns, butter firkins and cider barrels for the town. He was very deaf, and is remembered by some still on the stage, as taking his seat in the pulpit on the Sabbath with Dr. Hyde, and standing by his side during prayer and preaching, with his ear trumpet directed toward the minister, that he might catch every word that fell from the lips of the divine whom he so much revered. Mr. Thatcher died in 1826, and was succeeded in the business by Joseph Chadwick, who is better remembered as a tithing man, making himself almost as conspicuous in the church by his loud reproof of naughty boys as his predecessor was by his position in the pulpit. Mr. Chadwick died in 1857, and with him died the cooper's trade in Lee; barrels, pails, tubs and all the work of this craft being now more economically wrought in large establishments.

To give a detailed account of all the changes among the mechanics in this town would swell this volume to undue proportion. Suffice it to say, that each trade, the cooper's excepted, has grown with the growth of the town, and now Lee is supplied with craftsmen in almost every department of mechanic art, ready to do the work of this and neighboring towns.

#### PRINTING AND NEWSPAPERS.

Printing was one of the last mechanical arts introduced into this town. In 1840, E. J. Bull opened a printing office in the old store of John B. Perry, and soon after commenced publishing *The Berkshire Democrat*, edited by L. D. Brown. This paper had a short life here, and was transferred to Stockbridge, and published there under the name of *The Weekly Visitor*, but soon ceased to have even a name to live. In 1851, a printing office was started

here by Messrs. Charles French and Josiah A. Royce, two enterprising young men, masters of their trade, who were occupied for a few years mainly in printing wrappers for the paper manufacturers. In December 1856, a prospectus was issued from the office of *The Westfield News Letter*, announcing that *The Lee Home Companion* would be published weekly in Lee, commencing on the first of January, 1857. This stirred Messrs. French & Royce to a similar enterprise, and on the same day in which appeared the *Home Companion* was also published the first number of *The Valley Gleaner*. The former proved to be a second edition of the *Westfield News Letter*, with a local editor and a page devoted to Lee news and advertisements. The *Gleaner* appeared on a small sheet, 18 by 24 inches, with only four columns on a page. At the end of the first year the *Companion* ceased to exist, and the *Gleaner* was enlarged to five columns on a page, and still further enlarged to six columns at the commencement of its fourth year (1860). In 1862, Mr. Royce bought out his partner, and for twelve succeeding years was both editor and publisher of the *Gleaner*, assisted the latter part of this time in the editorial department by Alexander Hyde, to whom and J. P. Clark, a practical printer, he sold the office in 1874; in the mean time having enlarged the paper to its present size. Mr. Clark retired from the office the first of January, 1876, and in 1877, Mr. Hyde sold out to the present proprietors, Messrs. Rockwell & Hill.

In 1868, *The Central Berkshire Chronicle* was started in this town, and printed and published by Wm. H. Hill & Co., and edited by James Harding, now of the Pittsfield *Eagle*. This paper continued three years and then its subscription list was transferred to the *Eagle*, Mr. Hill continuing his job office in Lee. In 1876, the *Chronicle* was revived by Mr. Hill, and continued for about a year when it was

united with the *Gleaner*. The latter paper has now a circulation of over 1,100, and in its office most of the job printing is done for this and neighboring towns, paper-makers' wrappers being a specialty.

#### PUBLIC HOUSES.

The first house opened in town for the entertainment of strangers was a small log-house, 16 feet square, that stood in the hollow a little west of the present residence of Mr. John Verrase. The second public house was located in Cape street, near the saw-mill of the late Adan Ingram, and was but a little improvement on the first. The first house that deserved the name of hotel was the "Red Lion," so named from a furious red lion painted on the sign-board. This was built in 1778 by Nathan Dillingham, and stood on East Park street, near the present residence of Judge Pease. The "Red Lion" was the only hotel in the village till 1834, when the Housatonic House was built by William Cole, on the site of Memorial Hall. The "Housatonic" was greatly enlarged and improved by Mr. Hicks in 1865, and was burned in 1867 and not rebuilt. In 1854, George Van Deusen opened a public house at the north end of the village, called the Center Hotel. This house, greatly enlarged and improved, is now well kept by Thomas Norton. In 1868, Mr. Edward Morgan opened the Morgan House in the residence of the late William Porter, and afterwards enlarged the premises to accommodate his increasing custom. The Morgan House is now managed by H. C. Winegar & Son.

In the days of stages and turnpikes, public houses were numerous. In 1803, Jedediah Crocker opened a tavern, as a public house was then called, in East Lee, where John Moran now lives. In 1815, Pliny Shaylor opened another a mile or two farther east, and in 1820,



Samuel Sturgis still another, the Sturgis House, now kept by Watson Strickland. The two first named houses were discontinued, when the travel centered in the railroad. South Lee also, for a long time, had two hotels; one kept by William Morrill, and the other by Nathaniel Tremain. Besides the above, the houses now owned by T. L. Foote and Jared Bradley were used as public houses early in the present century.

## PROFESSIONAL.

[For an account of the Lee clergymen see the ecclesiastical history of the town.]

### THE LEE LAWYERS.

For thirty years after the incorporation of Lee, and nearly fifty years after the first settlements, there was no law office in the town. Not that there were no crimes here and no causes for civil action, for during and after the Shays' rebellion there was much division of society, much bitterness of feeling and many violations of law. Fortunately about this time, Dr. Hyde was settled as pastor over the Congregational church here, and being eminently a man of peace, his first mission was to cast oil on the troubled waters. How well he succeeded, the citizens of that time were fond of telling their children. As Mr. Cornelius Bassett expressed it, "We were terribly Shaysy when Dr. Hyde came to Lee, but the good man melted us together by his kindress and sympathy." The discipline of the church was parental but thorough, and outside of the church, public opinion frowned upon all injustice and dishonesty. Neighbors settled disputes among themselves mainly by reference. What little litigation occurred, was managed by Lenox and Pittsfield lawyers. Thus things ran along till 1807, when Alvan Coe, a native of Granville settled here as a lawyer. He was a good jurist, but did not find the field an inviting

one for his professsion, and after trying it two years, decided upon studying theology, and was afterwards a pastor at Sandusky, Ohio. Augustus Collins succeeded Mr. Coe, and built an office on the south side of Park street, a little west of the "Red Lion" hotel. Mr. Collins remained two or three years and then moved to Westfield, succeeded by Rollin C. Dewey of Sheffield, who also remained but a short time, removing to Indiana. The first lawyer who made his mark upon the town was William Porter, son of Dr. William Porter of Hadley. Mr. Porter graduated at Williams College in 1813, studied law with Hon. George Bliss of Springfield, settled in Lee in 1817, and here remained till his death in 1853. Probably no layman has ever made a better impress on society here than Mr. Porter. • He was not brilliant nor eloquent, but his whole make-up was so symmetrical that his counsels in town and his pleas at the bar, carried great weight with them. He was a safe leader, examined every subject with candor, and had the courage to express his honest convictions. In 1834-5, he represented the Berkshire district in the State Senate. In 1834, he was chosen trustee of Williams College and held this trust till his death. For eight years he was also district attorney. It was, however, in his family, church and social relations that his noble nature found its most genial action. He loved learning and did much to build up the educational interests of the town. His widow and three children survive him. One son is a professor in Beloit College, Wisconsin, and the other is a paper manufacturer at Unionville, Conn. One daughter died early, and the other married the Hon. Franklin Chamberlin of Hartford, Conn.

With Mr. Porter studied Edward V. Whiton, son of Gen. Joseph Whiton, who, after his admission to the bar in 1831, practiced law here a short time and then removed

to Janesville, Wis., where he rose to the high position of Chief Justice of that State.

Franklin Chamberlin, a native of Dalton, also studied law with Mr. Porter, married his daughter, and on his admission to the bar in 1845, became a partner with his father-in-law, and continued practice here till Mr. Porter's death, when he opened an office in New York city.

Marshall Wilcox, a native of Stockbridge and a graduate of Williams College, class of 1844, succeeded to the business of Messrs. Porter & Chamberlin in 1853. Mr. Wilcox studied law with Mr. Lester Filley of Otis, and practiced with Mr. Filley in that town for three years previous to his coming to Lee. He remained here sixteen years, and rose to the front rank in the Berkshire bar. While a resident of Lee, he represented the town with honor in both branches of the Legislature. In 1869 he removed to Pittsfield, where law business seemed to center after the removal of the Court House.

Franklin Sturgis, a native of Lee, son of William Sturgis, was admitted to the bar in 1830, and opened an office first at East Lee, and afterwards at the Center. After some years of practice his health failed and he removed to Lanesborough, where he died.

Lawson D. Bidwell, a native of Monterey and a graduate of Williams, class of 1814, studied law with Augustus Sherrill of Stockbridge. He practiced for a short time in his native town, and then opened an office in South Lee, where he remained till 1851, then removing to Stockbridge and giving his attention to agriculture. He died in Stockbridge in 1863, aged 72.

L. D. Brown, a native of Lee, and for a time a paper manufacturer, was admitted to the bar in 1841, and practiced law here till 1850, when California presented a more attractive field to his enterprising genius. He embarked

in some commercial speculations at San Francisco, and supposed he had secured a competence for life. He returned to Lee in 1854, and died here in 1858, leaving a wife and four brilliant daughters, all of whom have since deceased.

J. F. Cook, N. W. Ayer, and T. M. Judd, have also practiced law here for a short time. The members of this profession now practicing here are John Branning, admitted to the bar in 1845, N. W. Shores, admitted in 1860, and Edward T. Slocum, admitted in 1874. Mr. Branning practiced law in Monterey a few years before coming to Lee, and represented that town in the Legislature. Since his residence in Lee he has legislated in both branches of the General Court. All of Mr. Shores' professional life has been spent in Lee. In 1875, he was elected State Senator from the southern Berkshire district. Mr. Slocum is a native of Grafton, Mass., graduated at Amherst in 1871, at the Law School of the Boston University in 1874, practiced in Boston for three years, and then came to Lee.

#### PHYSICIANS.

Little besides the names is known of the first two physicians who practiced in Lee. Gideon Thompson was the first, a native of Goshen, Conn. He was here only a few years and removed to Galway, N. Y. Dr. Thompson was followed by Dr. Rathburn. The first physician who left much impress upon the place was Dr. Erastus Sargent, Jr., son of Dr. Erastus Sargent, of Stockbridge, and grandson of Rev. John Sargent, the first missionary to the Stockbridge Indians. Dr. Sargent, Jr., was born at Stockbridge in 1772, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1792, and came to Lee in 1794. He was a genial, well-informed man, a skillful physician, and had an extensive practice here, but being more faithful in administering



medicine than in collecting his debts, never accumulated much property. He died in Lee in 1832, leaving a wife and six children, who afterward moved to Indiana. Mrs. Sargent was a woman of culture, and the children all made their mark in the world. The two sons were successful business men in Indiana, the oldest daughter was principal of a female seminary in Memphis, Tenn.; the other three married, one a home missionary, the second a physician and the youngest a lawyer. The first grandchild, daughter of the home missionary, is now the wife of Ex-Gov. Bagley, of Michigan.

Dr. Nathaniel Thayer, a native of Boston and a gentleman of culture, settled here soon after Dr. Sargeant, but remained only a few years, removing to Westfield, Mass., where he attained some eminence and died much respected.

Hubbard Bartlett, a native of Richmond, Mass., who studied medicine with Dr. Burghardt of that town and at Dartmouth Medical College, settled in Lee as a physician in 1810, and soon secured the confidence and respect of this community, which continued and increased till his death, which occurred in 1859, at the age of 77. His professional career was interrupted by severe attacks of rheumatism. To assist in earning a livelihood he accepted the office of postmaster in 1818, and held it for 27½ years. He also represented the town in the Legislature two years (1825-6), was justice of the peace for 30 years (1829 to 1859), parish clerk 26 years (1833 to 1859), and deacon in the Congregational Church 30 years (1829 to 1859). He was also the first, and for many years the only druggist in town, his little shop serving the triple purpose of dispensing medicine, mail and justice. Here Messrs. Porter and Sturgis tried their little cases, here Mr. Chamberlin made his first plea, and here also occasionally Messrs. Bishop of Lenox, Field of Stockbridge,

and Sumner of Great Barrington, put forth their forensic powers. In looking over Dr. Bartlett's books, it is curious to notice the charges for medical services, the visits being charged at 25 cents to 50 cents, medicine included, the physicians of that time always carrying in their saddle-bags a miniature apothecary store. In the matter of postage the rates were higher than at present, being 6½ cents for any distance under 30 miles, 12½ cents for distances between 30 and 100 miles, 18¾ cents between 100 and 500 miles, and 25 cents for any greater distance. For these sums only one sheet could be carried. If two pieces of paper were included, or even a bank-bill put into a letter, the postage was doubled. Envelopes and postal cards were things unknown. The income of Dr. Bartlett from the post-office during the twenty-seven years of his service ranged from \$20 per annum to \$450, and this though his labors were more arduous than those of postmasters at the present day, as the mails were transported by stages, and often he was compelled to arise twice in the night to receive and deliver them, and bills were sent with each letter, and every package of letters received was compared with the accompanying bill, a record being kept of all that passed in and out of the office. With such high rates of postage the mails were comparatively small, but the letters were large and full, foolscap sheets being commonly used, and every available space on the paper filled. Few newspapers were carried by mail. A daily paper was not then the daily reading of countrymen, and the county papers were distributed from house to house by carriers. As late as 1832 no daily paper seems to have been taken in Lee, for among Dr. Bartlett's papers after his death was found the following, which well illustrates the difficulty of obtaining news before the advent of railroads and telegraphs:

“Lee July 6, 1832 .

Dr. H. Bartlett

Dear Sir   Anxious to be informed daily of the progress of cholera, we wish to have a Daily Paper taken by you from New York for 3 or 6 months, and we will pay you for the privilege of seeing the paper the sums set against our names

Signed	W. & W. & C. Laffin	75 cents
	E. V. Whiton	25 “
	J. & L. Church	50 “
	Asa G. Welch	75 “
	S. & A. Hulbert	25 “
	Tho's Falls	25 “
	Milton Ingersoll	25 “
	William Cole	25 “
	Ball, Bassett & Co	50 “
	Isaac C. Ives	25 “
	Abner Taylor	25 “
	Wm Porter Jr.	25 “
	J. B. Perry ”	25 “

The idea of four firms and nine individuals combining less than half a century since, to take a daily paper for three or six months, strikes the present generation with astonishment, as the average citizen now considers a daily paper almost as essential as his daily food.

It was as a Christian and citizen, that Dr. Bartlett was most esteemed. For thirty years, he was a standard-bearer in the Congregational church, and in this and all the other offices of life he was faithful, ever ready to do his full part in every enterprise that would advance the common weal. He died as he had lived, an humble Christian with full confidence in his Redeemer.

Asa G. Welch, a native of Norfolk, Conn, came to Lee in 1827, directly from Tyringham, Mass., where he had been practicing medicine for thirteen years. He soon secured an extensive practice here and retained it till his death, which occurred in 1852 at the age of 61, leaving a most estimable wife but no children. Dr. Welch was the

son of a physician and inherited a tact for his profession. He was tall and stout and his personal appearance such as to command notice in any public assembly. His ambition was not satisfied with success in his chosen profession. He aspired also to prominence in political matters, and in 1835-6 he represented the town in the Legislature, and in 1851 was elected to the State senate. He was also one of the original directors of the Lee Bank and held the position till his death.

With Dr. Welch studied Corydon Guiteau, a native of Norfolk, who received his diploma from the Berkshire Medical College in 1830 and immediately commenced practicing here with his teacher. After a few years, Dr. Guiteau opened a separate office and continued an extensive practice till his death in 1853. Dr. Guiteau was of Huguenot descent and showed his French extraction in his courteous manners. He was devoted to his profession, giving little attention to outside studies or business matters, but most faithful to his patients whom he attended with an untiring zeal and perseverance. Of warm affections, his heart was broken by the death of his only daughter and child in 1847. He lingered in feeble health for six years after her death, often visiting patients when he needed medicine and nursing more than they. His widow still survives, living in Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. Guiteau was succeeded by J. B. Whiting, a graduate of the Berkshire Medical College, who came here from Wolcottville, Conn., and stepped into a good practice which he held till his removal to Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1860, where he now resides.

John B. Gifford, a native of Lee and a graduate at the Berkshire Medical College opened an office here in 1850 for the practice of Homeopathy. He also manufactured the Homeopathic pillets extensively, and was quite enterprising as a business man, securing also a good share







RESIDENCE OF DR. C. C. HOLCOMBE.

of practice as a physician. His health soon failed and he died in 1866.

Besides the above, many physicians have practiced here for a short time and removed to other places, leaving no great impress on this community, but some of them gaining celebrity in other fields. We must not however omit to mention Dr. Charles McAllister who practiced for many years in South Lee and then removed to Stockbridge.

The present physicians are Eliphalet Wright, who studied with Dr. Welch and has been in extensive practice here since his graduation from Berkshire College in 1841, except the few years he spent in Granville; C. C. Holcombe, son of Dr. Vincent Holcombe of Granville, Mass., who came to Lee in 1854, and has an extensive ride in this and neighboring towns; D. M. Wilcox, who settled here in 1872, and has a good practice; C. E. Heath, who was for many years a practitioner in Monterey, and still having an extensive ride in that and other neighboring towns, opened an office in Lee in 1873; and C. W. Stratton, who has been in the successful practice of homeopathy here since 1868.

#### POSTMASTERS.

The first post-office in Berkshire County was established in Stockbridge in 1792. Jedediah Crocker was the first postmaster in Lee (1803), and kept his office at his tavern in Cape street on the site of the house lately owned by John Baker. Mr. Crocker was succeeded by Richard Brush in 1811, who also kept a public house on the same ground, and his bar-room served for a tailor's shop as well as for dealing out letters and liquors. Rolin C. Dewey succeeded Mr. Brush in 1816 and removed the office to the Center. Mr. Dewey leaving town, John B. Perry was appointed in 1817, but resigned after a

year's service in favor of his neighbor, Dr. Hubbard Bartlett, who held the office for  $27\frac{1}{2}$  years, when L. D. Brown took it, succeeded in 1849 by George H. Phelps, in 1853 by A. M. Howk, in 1861 by Nathan Gibbs, in 1863 by Dr. E. Wright, and in 1874 by J. C. Chaffee, the present incumbent. What the income of the post-master was prior to Dr. Bartlett's day can not be ascertained, but during the first year of his incumbency it was \$20, and at the end of his service it had increased to \$450. The income to Government for 1877 was, including box rent, \$3,364.27, and the salary of the postmaster is now \$1,700. In 1826, a post-office was established at South Lee, and in 1848, one at East Lee.

## ASSOCIATIONS.

### SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF GOOD MORALS.

Lee has ever been famous for associated and united effort. Certainly this has been the case since the healing of the breaches occasioned by the Shays' Rebellion. In few towns has society been so little divided into what has been termed the upper and lower crusts. If any aristocracy has existed it has been one of moral worth rather than of wealth. All classes of citizens have worked together harmoniously for what would promote the common weal, and when associated effort was necessary all have united, and as one put their shoulders to the wheel. As an example of this may be instanced "The Society for the Promotion of Good Morals," established here in 1814. It appears from the records of this society found among the papers of the late Dr. Bartlett that intemperance, Sabbath-breaking and profanity were at that time making alarming inroads upon the community, and this society was organized to combat these vices, for the second article of the constitution reads: "The members of



this society shall by their conversation and example encourage all virtuous conduct, and shall discountenance vice generally, and particularly the vices of Sabbath-breaking, intemperance in the use of spirituous liquors, and profaneness." In the third article, the members pledged themselves to furnish the poor with employment, "that indolence may not betray them into vice," and also "to discourage by all wise and discreet measures the unnecessary use of ardent spirits." The names of nearly a hundred citizens, apparently all the leading men of the town, are found appended to this constitution. Dr. Hyde was made President and Dr. Bartlett Secretary of this moral reform club, and the records show that efficient work was done. After generations have doubtless reaped the fruit from the labors of this association.

#### THE FIRST TOWN LIBRARY.

Early in the present century, the leading men of the town combined for the establishment of what was called a "town library," but it was really a proprietors' library, as none were permitted to draw books from it except owners of stock. The records of this institution cannot be found, but it is known to have done great service in promoting the cause of education and good morals in this community. The books, some 300 volumes in all, were mostly of the staple kind, treating of history, biography, travels, science and religion. Works of poetry were scarce, and of fiction very scarce. Edward V. Whiton, son of Gen. Joseph Whiton, was at one time librarian, and being fond of reading perused most of the historical books, and thus laid the foundation for the eminence in the legal profession which he afterwards attained, becoming Chief Justice of Wisconsin. When "The Young Men's Association of Lee" was organized in 1852, the books remaining in this old library were transferred by the consent of

the few remaining proprietors to this society, and formed a nucleus for a new library.

#### THE LEE BANK

was incorporated 1835. June 10, George Hull, of Sandisfield, was chosen President; July 31, John C. Furber, Cashier. The capital stock was \$50,000, increased at various times till it amounted to \$300,000. In 1864 this was reduced to \$210,000, which is the present capital. After four years' service, Mr. Hull resigned, and since then there have served as President, William A. Phelps, elected 1839; Walter Laffin, 1841; Leonard Church, 1844; Thomas Sedgwick, 1856; Harrison Garfield, 1862. The Cashiers have been after Mr. Furber, Thomas Green, chosen 1840, Edmund D. Chapin, 1848, Edward A. Bliss, 1850; John M. Howk, 1862, John L. Kilbon, 1868. This bank was never more successfully operated than under the present administration.

#### THE LEE SAVINGS BANK.

This institution was chartered March 5, 1852, and commenced business in June following. Hon. Harrison Garfield has been the President, with the exception of the first year, when William Porter Esq., was chosen. The Cashiers of the Lee Bank have been also the Treasurers of the Saving Bank. There are now (1877), 1,479 depositors, and \$483,335.59 on deposit. This Institution has the entire confidence of the community.

#### YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

This society was organized in 1852 "for the purpose of improving the moral and intellectual condition of the young men by means of a library, reading-room, lectures and debates." It was regularly chartered in 1853, and for some years maintained a reading-room and a course of

lectures and had gathered a library of 400 volumes. The reading-room and library were in a pleasant room in Church's block, and were open at all hours of the day to the public. The fire which destroyed this block and the Congregational Church in 1857, burned also the books and all the property of this Association and put an end to its existence. The lecture system of education has never been popular in Lee. Since the enterprise of the Young Men's Association in this line, courses of lectures have been attempted by individuals, but with only partial success.

#### THE LEE BAND AND BAND ASSOCIATION.

The music of the early inhabitants of Lee was mostly of the vocal kind. Singing schools were frequent and well patronized, but in the first half century of the town's history instrumental music was pretty much tabooed. A fiddle was considered the instrument of the Evil One, and when Captain Landers brought his bass-viol into the church, many regarded it as sacrilegious. It is within the memory of many now living when pianos were introduced. The first band was organized in 1857, by A. V. Shannon, then a youth just out of his teens, and possessing a great talent for music, which he had well cultivated. This band, called Shannon's Brass Band, was cordially welcomed by the public and furnished with uniforms. Out of this organization grew the present Lee Cornet Band, which confessedly stands at the head of similar companies in the county, having taken the first premium in all competitive trials. In 1875, a beautiful uniform was furnished the Band by an appreciative public, and a Band Association was organized, consisting of nearly one hundred citizens who agreed to be assessed, not to exceed \$3 each annually, to provide instruments and pay the necessary expenses of the musicians. Mr. Elizur Smith was the first President of this Association,

and was succeeded by Mr. Wellington Smith, the present incumbent. At the annual meeting, the Band furnish a free concert to the members and their friends. To Capt. A. V. Shannon, who combines great executive ability with musical talent, much credit is due for organizing and directing this band without remuneration and at much personal sacrifice.

#### THE LEE FERN CLIFF ASSOCIATION.

This village improvement society was instituted in 1873, the late Rev. Dr. Gale taking an active part in organizing it, and becoming its first President. The objects of the society as set forth in the constitution are, "To ornament and improve the public streets and squares by planting shade trees, keeping the sidewalks clean and in repair, and by other means by which the town may be rendered beautiful, healthy and comfortable." On the third Tuesday of August the association holds its annual meeting on Fern Cliff, at which time the officers are elected and an address delivered. At the first annual meeting in 1874 Professor Tenney was the orator. The orators in succeeding years have been Dr. George B. Loring in 1875, Professor L. Pratt and Governor Rice in 1876, and Rev. Dr. H. M. Field in 1877. Among the improvements inaugurated in the village by this association may be mentioned the lighting of the streets, better sidewalks, the removal of litter from the roads and ditches clean lawns and tidy fences, and in some few instances the abolition of fences. The Presidents since Dr. Gale have been Elizur Smith, Rev. P. A. Nordell and Wellington Smith.

#### THE LEE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

April 27, 1874 a meeting of citizens was called for the purpose of organizing a Library Association and establishing a Public Library. Harrison Garfield was chosen



Chairman of this meeting and John Stallman Secretary, and a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws, and all necessary steps were taken to organize a corporation under the act of 1872 in reference to the establishment of public libraries and reading rooms. At an adjourned meeting May 4, the constitution was adopted and a Board of Directors chosen, viz.: Harrison Garfield, Elizur Smith, Nahum Gale, W. W. Sever, Nathan Gibbs, Alexander Hyde and Abner Rice. At a subsequent meeting of the Directors Harrison Garfield was chosen President, Dr. Gale Vice-president, John Stallman Clerk, and J. L. Kilbon Treasurer. The town had previously voted to appropriate the dog-tax money for a public library, and individuals had pledged liberal sums for the same purpose, Messrs. H. Garfield and E. Smith of this town \$500 each, and Edward N. Gibbs of Norwich, Conn., the same amount. A committee appointed to solicit further subscriptions met with a cordial response from the citizens and former residents. Among the largest donors may be mentioned Wellington Smith \$200, P. C. Baird \$100, W. H. Hamblin \$100, W. B. Wood of Boston \$100, G. F. Perkins of New York \$100, Samuel and Julia Hebenner of Philadelphia \$100, Charles T. Lockhart of New York \$50, Charles Taylor of New York a set of Appleton's Encyclopædia, and H. S. Hulbert of New York a very fine carpet for the library room. In all, over \$3,000 have been contributed to this object and a library of about 3,000 volumes, mostly a choice selection of books, has been provided, which is open to the free use of every individual in town over twelve years of age. The town has granted to the Association the use of two large rooms in Memorial Hall, which have been furnished in good style, mainly by gifts of citizens. The Library is an educational institution of which the town may well be proud. The community generally appreciate its value,

and the drawers of books now number about a thousand. J. C. Chaffee has been the librarian from the start, and the town usually appropriates, besides the dog-fund, some \$250 annually for the purchase of new books and the salary of the librarian.

#### THE LEE FARMERS' CLUB.

This association was organized in 1862 by some thirty of the leading farmers of the town and has maintained a vigorous existence from that time to the present. The object of this society is the advancement of agriculture by means of lectures, essays, discussions and books. A library of about 300 volumes consisting mostly of works on agriculture, had been collected, when the town library was started in 1874, and the club donated their books to the latter institution. The meetings are held fortnightly during the Winter and intermitted during the busy months of Summer. Occasionally, social sessions are held at the houses of members, when ladies are admitted. The club has done good service to the agriculture of the town, and incidentally has been of benefit by stimulating thought and encouraging its expression, and by cultivating social and neighborly graces. Alexander Hyde was the first President of the club, and John A. Decker is the present incumbent of this office.

#### FREE MASONS.

The Evening Star Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was constituted in Lee by charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, October 10, 1795, and has included among its members many of the best citizens of this and neighboring towns. Its first Master was Judge William Walker of Lenox, whose name alone was sufficient to give character to the Lodge. The present Master is Alonzo Bradley. This association has a large and well-

furnished hall in Northrup's block, where its meetings are held regularly with a good attendance. The Lodge now numbers 80 members.

#### THE LEE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

Was organized in 1860, auxiliary to the National Ancient Order of Hibernians. Its purposes are social and benevolent. Over \$200 have been expended annually in aid of its poor members. The present membership is 80, and its officers are: President, J. D. McCarthy; Secretary, Thomas Norton.

#### THE LEE PLEASURE-PARK ASSOCIATION

Was organized in 1869 with a capital stock of \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing a suitable plot of ground for a race-course. Such a plot was bought on the banks of the Housatonic, about a mile south of the village, and a track, fences, sheds, etc. built. P. C. Baird was the first President, and John Stallman the first Secretary and Treasurer. The present officers (1877) are H. W. T. Mali of Stockbridge, President, and George K. Baird of Lee, Secretary and Treasurer. The par value of the stock is \$50 per share and 74 shares have been purchased. This association is out of debt and has a small surplus in the treasury.

For an account of the missionary and other benevolent associations of the town see the Ecclesiastical History.

#### OFFICIAL AND STATISTICAL.

FROM the town records it appears, that our fathers believed in representation by representative men, rather than in the modern doctrine of rotation in office. Ebenezer Jenkins was the first representative of the town at General Court, elected in 1783, and re-elected the three

following years, and in all represented the town eight years. From the time of incorporation (1777) to 1814, only three gentlemen besides Mr. Jenkins were elected to the Legislature, viz., Josiah Yale six years, Jared Bradley seven years and Joseph Whiton nine years. Since 1820 the town has been represented by almost as many men as there have been years. In dispensing town offices the same principle seems to have been observed. Squire Yale served twenty years on the board of selectmen; John Nye twenty-two; Joseph Whiton ten. Prince West was the first town clerk and served five years in this office; Nathan Dillingham served thirteen years; Daniel Wilcox twelve; Hubbard Bartlett fifteen, and Ransom Hinman twenty-one. The following table gives the names of the men whom the town has delighted to honor with its most important offices, and also the votes of the two candidates for Governor who received the highest number:



[illegible]

Year	Town Clerks.	Selectmen.	Representatives.	Votes for Governor.
1810	C. T. Fessenden,	J. Yale, J. Nye, Jared Bradley,	Jared Bradley, J. Whiton,	Gore, 194 Gerry, 49
1811	"	Joseph Whiton, Jas. Whiton, Jared Bradley,	"	192 " 45
1812	"	J. Yale, Tim. Thatcher,	"	192 " 48
1813	"	J. Nye, Eli Bradley,	"	194 " 39
1814	Nathan Dillingham,	Joseph Whiton, J. Nye, Eben Porter,	James Whiton,	198 Dexter, 46
1815	"	A. Hall, Eben Porter, G. Bassett,	"	206 " 43
1816	R. Hinman,	J. Nye, jun., " "	"	189 " 33
1817	"	R. M. Ashley, " " N. Tremain,	J. B. Perry,	187 Dearborn, 35
1818	"	J. Yale, J. Nye, Joseph Whiton,	Gersham Bassett,	165 Crownsfield, 24
1819	"	" " " "	"	172 " 27
1820	"	G. Bassett, R. M. Ashley, Lem. Bassett,	J. B. Perry,	169 Eustus, 26
1821	"	J. Nye, jun., Tim. Thatcher, A. Merrell, jun.,	G. Bassett,	142 " 32
1822	"	" " " " " "	John Nye,	132 " 33
1823	"	" " " " " "	" Lem Bassett,	181 " 55
1824	Wm. Porter,	" " Francis Herrick, Wm. Merrell,	Lem. Bassett,	177 " 101
1825	"	" " Joshua West, " "	Hubbard Bartlett,	Samuel Lathrop, 2
1826	Leonard Church,	Wm. Merrell, " " W. Lafin,	"	Lincoln, 89 Mills, 3
1827	"	G. Bassett, J. Yale, jun., Eli Bradley, jun.,	C. M. Owen,	87 " 17
1828	R. Hinman,	Thomas Hurlbut, " " " "	R. Loomis,	79 Morton, 20
1829	U. Bartlett,	" " " " " "	C. M. Owen,	62 " 20
1830	"	" " " " " "	R. Loomis, Stephen Thatcher,	176 " 30
1831	"	" " " " " "	T. Hurlbut, W. Lafin,	126 " 20
1832	"	L. D. Bidwell, " " " "	W. Lafin, J. Yale,	255 " 57
1833	"	" " " " " "	J. Yale, A. G. Welch, N. Tremain,	91 " 11
1834	"	C. M. Owen, " " " "	A. G. Welch, W. Lafin,	250 " 62
1835	"	L. D. Bidwell, Asa Stebbens, Lyman Foote,	W. Lafin, Wm. Merrell,	193 " 149
1836	"	James Keep, Crocker Thatcher, " "	Leonard Church, Eli Bradley,	246 " 159
1837	"	" " " " " "	" " " "	280 " 118
1838	"	C. M. Owen, Z. Winegar, I. C. Ives,	" " " "	213 " 109
1839	"	Billings Brown, " " " "	" " " "	240 " 155
1840	"	I. M. Taylor, L. Beach, Jared Bradley,	S. A. Hulbert,	269 " 187
1841	"	" " " " " "	Not represented,	172 " 172
1842	R. Hinman,	S. S. Dorr, L. Beach, Charles Thatcher,	Isaac Ball,	188 Morton, 164
1843	"	J. H. Royce, Henry Smith, " "	Zack Winegar,	228 " 159

YEAR	TOWN CLERKS.	SELECTMEN.	REPRESENTATIVES.	VOTES FOR GOVERNOR.
1844	R. Hinman,	J. H. Royce, Henry Smith, A. G. Hulbert,	Lewis Beach,	" 246 Bancroft, 168
1845	"	" F. N. Lowrey, " "	G. W. Platner,	" 206 J. Davis, 109
1846	"	E. S. May, " "	I. M. Taylor,	" 208 " 89
1847	H. Bartlett,	" " C. B. Phinney,	Henry Smith,	" 215 C Cushing, 120
1848	"	" B. Brown, " "	Elizur Smith,	" 254 Phillips, 184
1849	Thomas Steele,	F. N. Lowrey, Lucius Crocker, " "	Not represented.	" 260 " 195
1850	R. Hinman,	Henry Smith, Eli Bradley, W. P. Hamblin,	H. Garfield,	" 283 Boutwell, 188
1851	"	Wm. G. Merrell, " "	J. H. Royce,	" 256 " 194
1852	"	" Leman Phinney, " "	C. B. Phinney,	" 282 Bishop, 229
1853	"	" " H. Garfield,	W. P. Hamblin,	" 274 " 190
1854	"	Leman Phinney, H. Garfield, H. Smith,	E. S. May,	" 132 Henry J. Gardner, 273
1855	F. G. Taylor,	H. Smith, F. M. Couch, J. C. Ives,	H. W. Bishop,	" 238 E. D. Beach, 148
1856	"	H. Garfield, Amos G. Judd, A. P. Bassett,	Henry J. Gardner,	" 384 E. D. Beach, 217
1857	John Stallman,	H. Garfield, F. M. Couch, Thomas Hulbert,	H. J. Gardner,	" 212 N. P. Banks, 186
1858	F. G. Taylor,	F. M. Couch, A. M. Howk, A. G. Hulbert,	E. D. Beach,	" 256 E. D. Beach, 242
1859	"	F. M. Couch, A. M. Howk, A. G. Hulbert,	N. P. Banks,	" 284 N. P. Banks, 261
1860	"	H. Garfield, W. G. Merrell, E. Morgan,	B. F. Butler,	" 415 E. D. Beach, 270
1861	T. A. Oman,	W. G. Merrell, E. Morgan, S. S. May,	John A. Andrew,	" 253 Isaac Davis, 135
1862	"	W. G. Merrell, E. Morgan, S. S. May,	John A. Andrew,	" 290 Chas. Devens, jr., 250
1863	J. F. Cook,	S. S. May, John Stallman, G. R. Sturges,	John A. Andrew,	" 320 Henry W. Paine, 255
1864	"	S. S. May, W. G. Merrell, James Bullard,	J. A. Andrew,	" 352 H. W. Paine, 242
1865	"	Jas. Bullard, W. G. Merrell, Alonzo Bradley,	A. H. Bullock,	" 271 D. N. Couch, 201
1866	"	W. G. Merrell, Prentiss Chaffee, Alonzo Bradley,	A. H. Bullock,	" 283 T. H. Sweetser, 185
1867	"	A. Hyde, I. H. Pixley, James Bullard,	A. H. Bullock,	" 275 J. Q. Adams, 286
1868	"	John Stallman, James Bullard, I. H. Pixley,	W. Clafin,	" 348 J. Q. Adams, 250
1869	F. W. Gibbs,	I. H. Pixley, Elizur Smith, J. Branning,	W. Clafin,	" 240 J. Q. Adams, 211
1870	John Stallman,	I. H. Pixley, Elizur Smith, J. Branning,	W. Clafin,	" 297 J. Q. Adams, 194
1871	"	S. S. May, E. M. Langdon, John Branning,	W. B. Washburn,	" 241 J. Q. Adams, 168
1872	"	S. S. May, E. M. Langdon, I. H. Pixley,	W. B. Washburn,	" 408 F. W. Bird, 184
1873	"	S. S. May, I. H. Pixley, P. M. Shaylor,	W. B. Washburn,	" 124 William Gaston, 265
1874	"	P. M. Shaylor, I. H. Pixley, S. S. May,	W. Gaston,	" 279 Thomas Talbot, 239
1875	"	P. M. Shaylor, John Dowd, T. H. Fenn,	A. H. Rice,	" 218 W. Gaston, 235
1876	"	P. M. Shaylor, John Dowd, T. H. Fenn,	A. H. Rice,	" 404 C. F. Adams, 352
1877	"	P. M. Shaylor, T. H. Fenn, J. A. Tanner,	A. H. Rice,	" 288 W. Gaston, 227

## STATE SENATORS.

The following Lee gentlemen have served as State Senators :

Joseph Whiton, in 1813 and 1814.

William Porter, " 1834 " 1835.

Samuel A. Hulbert, in 1846 and 1847.

Asa G. Welch, " 1851.

William Taylor, " 1856 " 1857.

John Branning, " 1858 " 1859.

Marshall Wilcox, " 1868.

P. C. Baird, " 1872 " 1873.

Norman W. Shores, " 1876.

Harrison Garfield, " 1877.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The following have been honored with a seat on the Board of County Commissioners :

John Nye, 1846 to 1852.

Edward S. May, 1870 to 1872.

John Stallman, elected for three years in 1876.

## JUSTICES OF THE POLICE COURT ORGANIZED IN 1855.

L. D. Brown, 1855-6.

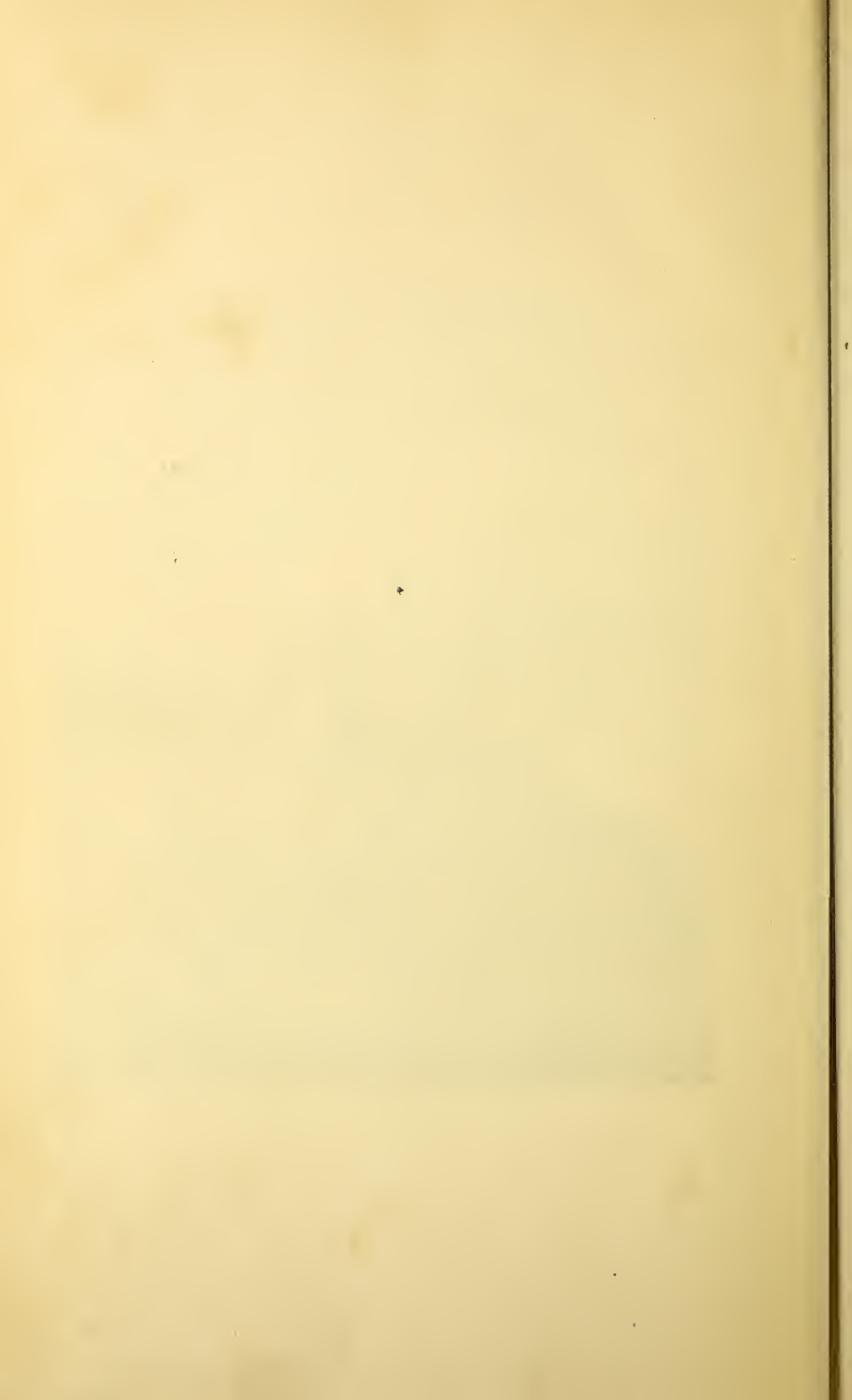
Isaac C. Ives, 1857 to 1875.

Moses H. Pease, 1875, present incumbent.





RESIDENCE OF JOHN STALLMAN.



# ROLL OF HONOR.

LIST OF LEE SOLDIERS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

Names.	Co.	Reg.	Age.	Mustered.	Died.	Place of Death.
Beach, Henry L.,	II.	49	23	1862 October	1863, June	New Orleans, La.
Benedict, George H.,	.	27	18	1864, February	1864, November	Morehead City, N. C.
Bliss, Quinton F.,	B.	37	18	1864, September	1865, February	Warren Station, Va.
Burghardt, Henry F.,	A.	54	21	1863, March	1863, July	Fort Wagner, S. C.
Burnick, Thomas,	I.	31	35	1861, November	1862, September	Fort Pike, La.
Clafin, John R.,	I.	21	20	1861, August	1862, September	Chantilly, Va.
Collins, Henry A.,	D.	57	39	1864, January	1864, May	Wilderness, Va.
Combs, Edgar H., 2d Lieut.,	K.	27	30	1864, April	1864, June	Cold Harbor, Va.
Coop, Edward W.,	B.	37	19	1862, August	1864, May	Wilderness, Va.
Dolan, Hugh,	E.	27	32	1863, December	1864, December	Andersonville, Ga.
Evans, Henry M.,	K.	1st Cav.	18	1863, December	1864, October	Andersonville, Ga.
Fisher, Hervey,	C	27	18	1865, February	1865, March	Fortress Monroe, Va.
Foley, William,	K.	37	50	1862, September	1868, February	Stockbridge, Mass.
Freeman, Charles W.,	B.	37	22	1862, August	1865, April	Annapolis, Md.
Fuller, John M.,	I.	49	34	1862, October	1863, August	New Haven, Ct.
Gifford, Henry A.,	C.	27	16	1865, February	1865, June	Readville, Mass.
Harrington, John,	A	31	21	1861, November	1863, May	Port Hudson, La.
Henderson, Wm H.,	E	37	23	1864, January	1865, April	Saylor's Creek, Va.
Ingersoll, Eugene L.,	II.	49	19	1862, October	1863, May	Port Hudson, La.
Ingram, Lyman J.,	I.	31	30	1861, December	1862, June	New Orleans, La.
Jackson, Edwin A.,	E.	27	49	1861, September	1862, March	Newbern, N. C.
Jaquins, Egbert J.,	D.	57	29	1864, January	1864, August	Andersonville, Ga.
Kelly, Patrick,	A.	10	18	1862, August	1862, June	Gaines Mills, Va.
Keyes, Michael,	B.	37	33	1862, January	1864, June	Petersburg, Va.
Lemley, Horace,	I.	31	43	1862, January	1862, November	Fort Pike, La.
Livingston, Asher I.,	K.	2	18	1861, May	1862, August	Cedar Mountain, Va.
Merrill, John H.,	A.	10	36	1861, June	1865, May	Pittsfield, Mass.

NAMES.	Co.	Reg.	Age.	Mustered.	Died.	Place of Death,
McDonough, Dennis, .	E.	27	28	1863, December	1865, July	Lee, Mass.
Pease, Franklin W., Capt. .	B.	37	40	1862, August	1864, May	Spottsylvania, Va.
Pell, George M., .	A.	54	30	1863, July	1864, August	Morris Island, S. C.
Phinney, George F., .	B.	37	19	1862, August	1864, May	Wilderness, Va.
Richards, James, .	F.	57	19	1864, February	1864, February	Andersonville, Ga.
Ross, William, .	I.	31	20	1861, December	1862, April	Ship Island, Miss.
Sheffield, Hiram, .	E.	27	18	1861, September	1862, February	Roanoke Island, N. C.
Spafford, Lewis W., .	B.	37	18	1862, August	1863, March	Falmouth, Va.
Spencer, Aaron, .	A.	54	20	1863, March	1863, September	Fort Wagner, S. C.
Stedman, James S., .	I.	57	22	1864, March	1864, May	Wilderness, Va.
Tarny, Thomas J., .	E.	27	23	1861, December	1864, February	Pittsfield, Mass.

The above names are inscribed on marble tablets placed in Memorial Hall, with this heading :

"The town of Lee erects this hall in honor of her sons who fell representing her in defence of the Union in the War of the Rebellion (1861-1865), and inscribes their names upon these tablets."



## POPULATION, PROPERTY AND PRODUCTS.

The following table shows the increase of population, polls and property by decades as far back as the records of the town give these statistics :

	1791.	1800.	1810.	1820.	1830.	1840.
Population, . .	1,170	1,267	1,305	1,384	1,825	2,428
Polls, . . . .				310	372	611
Valuation, . .				\$283,369	\$321,211	\$594,796

	1850.	1860.	1870.	1875.	1877.
Population, . . .	3,220	4,420	3,860	3,900	
Polls, . . . . .	794	949	866	987	954
Valuation, . . .	\$868,727	\$1,807,191	\$1,666,719	\$1,945,502	\$1,892,098

The State census for 1875 gives the value of the products of manufactures of Lee for that year as \$1,616,760, and the agricultural products as \$116,682. Of the population of the town 864 were foreign-born, 105 were blacks, 8 were paupers, 285 were engaged in agriculture and 687 in manufactures. The number of dwellings was 707, the number of families 858, and the number of voters 821.

## CONCLUSION.

This cursory review of the first century of Lee is full of encouragement. The town, small in its beginnings and of slow growth in the first decades of its existence, has made for itself a name, not only as a place of business enterprise, but for its social, literary and religious institutions, and more especially for the high-toned character of its citizens. "Men," it has been well said, "are the chief product and the crowning glory of every

place." Our fathers have bequeathed us a rich inheritance in our churches, schools, library, and other appliances for developing manhood, and it is the duty of the present generation to transmit them unimpaired to the next century.

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